

Disability Now

This month

9
MOTORING
David Griffiths tests a trio of wheelchair carriers

10
PROFILE
Alf Morris

11
TECs
Enterprise in trouble

13
EUROPE
Bulgaria: nothing changes except prices

15-19
DN's GARDENING SPECIAL
Tips from a Green Goddess...alternative gardening...gardens to visit...jobs and courses...win a Floronde worth £499

20-22
ARTS
Maria Oshodi and Hound, BP's re-Vision exhibition, books

23
CAREERS TALK
(3) John MacLaren: self-employed clock and watch repairer

27-31
CLASSIFIEDS



"You are not just a fairytale princess," Princess Diana was told after she gave £5,000 from her own charities trust to a disabled children's nursery in New Delhi on a visit to them.

MARTIN KEENE/ PRESS ASSOCIATION

Historic bill 'talked out' by Tory MP

Alf Morris, the shadow minister for disabled people, has vowed to fight on after his Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill failed to receive a second reading in the House of Commons on 31 January.

He has also said that if the bill fails now, the next Labour government will make sure it becomes law.

The first disabled people's civil rights bill in the UK, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, aims to outlaw unfair discrimination.

It was blocked by the Conservative MP for Kingswood, Robert Hayward, who was still speaking when the deadline for the vote passed.

"It is shocking and disgusting the way the bill was talked out in this way," said Mr Morris. "But this is not the end. We will fight on and with renewed vigour."

As *DN* went to press, the bill, which the Government said it viewed with "benevolent neutrality", was due to be debated again on 21 February, the same day that an identical bill introduced by Labour's Baroness Lockwood was to get its second reading in the Lords.

But with an election expected on 9 April, the odds are stacked against either bill becoming law.

Mr Morris, however,

remains defiant. He said: "I have to be optimistic because there is cross-party support for the bills and general agreement in both houses that something has to be done about the unfairness and discrimination disabled people face".

Although Mr Hayward later apologised to the House for misleading Labour MPs by saying he would not talk the bill out, and then doing so, dis-



Robert Hayward: bill blocker

ability groups are not mollified.

Mary Holland, assistant director of the Royal Associa-

Continued on page 4

Claim now, urges Government

The Government expects an extra 300,000 disabled people will gain from two new benefits starting in April and has launched a £2.7 million advertising campaign to alert them.

Disability Allowance will replace Attendance and Mobility Allowances for people under 65 while Disability Working Allowance is designed to top up the income of disabled people who are starting work or who are already in work.

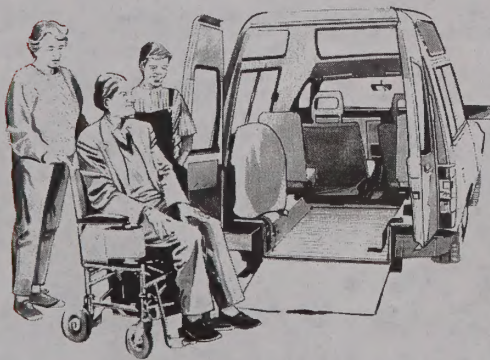
The television and newspaper campaign highlights rock star and tv presenter Ian Dury, himself disabled.

Sally Witcher, of the umbrella group Disability Alliance, said the new benefits did not go far enough and would not provide any extra help for most of Britain's 6.2 million disabled people.

The Government also launched a charter for benefit claimants last month, which

Continued on page 4

"My wife and I go everywhere together - she's the most important person in my life..."



"...that's why we chose Chairman."

Call Free on 0800 220878 or Telephone 0635 871502



GOWRINGS MOBILITY

Freepost RG490, Newbury, Berks. RG13 1BR

WE'RE MILES AHEAD

FREE 3-YEAR WARRANTY

Chairman

PM backs jobs initiative

Prime Minister John Major has given his "fullest backing" to a ten-point Employers' Agenda on Disability designed to promote the recruitment and careers of the 2.4 million disabled people of working age.

Launched last month by the Employers' Forum on Disability, a 55-strong grouping of mainly big companies, the Agenda has been adopted by 21 of them, including British Rail, London Weekend Television, Wellcome and Boots.

A key action point in the Agenda requires a company to monitor the other points, produce an annual audit reviewed by its board of directors, and publish achievements and objectives in its annual report.

Mr Major, an ex-Minister for Disabled People, said they were "a resource, not just a difficulty", and not to use their talents was "a huge waste".

He told the private and public sector: "there is an element of self-interest for all of us in making sure that this enormous resource is properly used in the future".

While he admitted that "only" five government departments and agencies met the three per cent employment quota, with four close to it (the Departments of Health and Social Security are not among them), he argued that their col-



John Major talks to Julia Schofield of Julia Schofield Associates watched by Susan Scott-Parker of the Employers' Forum and Graham Bann of Business in the Community.

lective record was "twice as good" as the private sector.

The Agenda has been generally welcomed, as far as it goes.

Disability awareness trainer, Dr Stephen Duckworth, said: "It's a good start, but not a panacea. We still need to go one step further and get anti-discrimination legislation in place". He thought the Prime Minister's commitment would influence employers.

Bert Massie, director of the Royal Association for Disability

and Rehabilitation said: "We would like to see more employers adopt the Agenda, but we still need legislation to pick up discrimination".

Gina King, head of equal opportunities at the Industrial Society, which held its first training course on disability in the workplace last month, said: "The focus on disability should shame industry into improving its appalling record on the employment of disabled people".

Sueing 'a lottery'

The court system for dealing with medical negligence claims is a "shambles" and a "lottery", leaving some people adequately supported while others are in poverty, says a new report from The Spastics Society.

But no-fault compensation may not be the answer.

Each year 1,500 children are born with cerebral palsy. Last year 600 parents sued.

Cerebral palsy cases account for 80 per cent of large settlements, yet only one in four parents make it to court. Parents must prove that doctors were negligent and that a particular disability was caused by an accident or mishap.

With no-fault compensation schemes, you only have to prove a link between the accident and the disability.

But, says the report, this is where the problem lies: "Recent evidence shows that 85 per cent of cerebral palsy occurs either during pregnancy or after delivery and has nothing to do with medical inter-

vention, or the lack of it. This would make such a scheme irrelevant to many people with cerebral palsy."

Brian Lamb, head of campaigns at The Spastics Society, said: "Our research shows that parents want two things - financial security for their child's future and information about the birth itself. The no-fault scheme is deficient on both counts."

"The current option of pursuing negligence claims through the courts is clearly unfair. What we have is a state lottery. Whilst a small minority receive justifiably large awards to meet the additional costs of disability, the majority subsist on inadequate state benefits."

The Society proposes a comprehensive disability income scheme open to every disabled person in need, and reform of the legal system to ensure that doctors are more accountable.

Paying for Disability, £2.95, tel: 071-636 5020 ext 258.

£1m for people with head injury

The Government is giving another £1m to 12 rehabilitation centres, hospitals and community services which help people with a head injury. Frenchay Healthcare Services in Bristol will get £200,000 and

others £40,000 to £150,000.

Ian Garrow, director of Headway (the national head injuries association), said that, with the exception of Frenchay, the money would not stretch to support services for families.



The Ford Escort has always been one of the best selling cars in the Motability scheme, and the latest Ford Escort should be no exception.

Although only slightly wider than its predecessor,

it's considerably roomier inside. Shallower sills and taller doors that open wider, make getting in and out easier, particularly when you have awkward items to carry, such as a foldaway wheelchair.

When we designed the new Escort, we considered every kind of family.

Height adjustable front seat belts ensure all occupants travel comfortably, and there's also a remote release (on L models and above) for the new lower and wider tailgate.

Another creature comfort is power assisted steering, available for the first time as an option (1.6 litre engine models only).

For more information fill in the coupon opposite, or call freephone 0800 252 983.

Alternatively, contact one of our Motability specialists (you'll find one at almost every Ford main dealership). They'll also be able to give you details of the special Escort for disabled drivers.

Remember, you don't have to be a disabled driver

to qualify for the Motability scheme. In fact you don't have to be disabled at all. If you have a friend or someone in your family who is disabled you simply have to be nominated by them to act as their 'chauffeur'.

Ford Motor Company, FREEPOST, Dept EWA, St. Mary's Green, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3BR. Please send me the Motability scheme details.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____



Parents' charter

Schools minister Michael Fal-lon launched a guide last month which, for the first time, tells parents of children with special educational needs what their rights are and how to exercise them.

Parents' Charter: Children with Special Needs, includes information on assessment, statementing, what type of help parents can expect for their child, and what to do if they are concerned about his or her progress.

The guide is being sent to all schools and disability groups.

Free copy, tel: (0800) 444242.

Social fund

The Government has given another £6.2 million to the Social Fund, bringing its budget for 1991/92 to £277 million. This follows a rise of £40 million last August and £3 million in November.

The Fund has been criticised by elderly and disabled people in the past for failing to meet their needs. A National Audit Office report last year revealed that refusals for Social Fund loans were up, debt was rising, and millions were remaining unspent (*DN*, March 1991).

DisabilityNow

Published by
The Spastics Society,
12 Park Crescent
London W1N 4EQ.
Tel: 071-636 5020.
Editor Mary Wilkinson
Assistant Editor
Alison Rowat
Reporter
Rebecca Reynolds
Editorial/Production Assistant
Catherine Frame
Secretary
Tracy Scollin
Subscriptions Manager Gayle Mooney
Assistant Karen King
Tel: 071-383 4575
Advertising
Richard Gresham,
Kingslea Press Ltd.,
12 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays Road,
London SE16 2XU.
Tel: 071-252 1362.
Printed by Cherwell
Valley Lithographic
Printers, Banbury, Oxon
and Challenge Print
Management.
Tel: (0933) 460041.
ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.
Copyright
©1992 The Spastics Society



Over 500 people turned up to the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation's lobby of Parliament in support of the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill in January. TIM RUSSELL

Protest at new benefit rule

People with severe disabilities and their carers will lobby Parliament on 18 March to protest about the Government's decision to stop people who live with close relatives from claiming the Severe Disability Premium.

Before, people made independent living agreements, such as joint tenancies, with close relatives in order to be eligible for the weekly Severe Disability Premium of £32.55.

But Social Security Secretary Tony Newton, who announced the new regulation last November, said the creation of artificial tenancy arrangements within one household has gone beyond the original intention which underlies the benefit.

He said the premium was for severely disabled people who live independently in the community, or with someone else on a commercial basis, and not

for those who live with families or friends on a commercial basis.

John Higgins of Derbyshire Carers' Concern, who are organising the national lobby, said: "We will be asking the Government to rethink the new rule because thousands of disabled people who need this money badly are now missing out".

Tel: (0773) 746101.

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY COTTAGES DESIGNED
FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

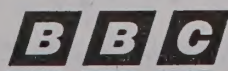


Eight traditional stone cottages (sleeping 2-6) recently converted with wheelchair users in mind. Each has private garden with parking on tarmac. Level access throughout. Woodburning stoves (free logs) & free night-stores. Linen provided. Dogs accepted. Colour TVs. Home made meals on arrival and each evening. Superb rural area with outstanding views from low level windows. Being in wh/ch. myself all aspects have been carefully considered - we aim to provide a really RELAXED HOLIDAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. Easy distance from best beaches. One mile private fishing with wh/ch. platforms. Open all year. Car essential. Early enquiry advised - many return bookings. 1992 rates from £115-£395 (VAT included). Large colour brochure (2 x 2nd class stamps appreciated) from: R. & N. Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Tel: Bodmin (0208) 850277 & 850617.

BBC Two's Disability Programme Unit are producing a programme on the history of black disabled people and the black disability movement in Britain from the post war 40's to present day.

We would like to hear from any black disabled people - people of Afro Caribbean origin who were resident in Britain in the late 40's and early 50's or came to Britain in the early 60's as a disabled person or with a disabled child about their memories, experience or have photographs from that time and would be interested in participating in the making of the programme.

For further information please contact Pam Roberts at:
Disability Programme Unit
Room 5528A
Wood Lane
London
W12 7RJ
Telephone: 081 743 8000
081 576 7136



TELEVISION

Voting alert

MPs of all parties are asking the Government to start advertising the right of four million housebound people and their carers to a proxy or postal vote now.

The Government is planning to launch a £665,000 campaign when the election is called.

But that might be too late, said Jeff Rooker, Labour's community care spokesman and first sponsor of the early day motion, signed by 150 MPs.

"Potential voters could have only three and a half working days to return the forms in the advertisements, countersigned by a nurse, GP, or home warden, to the correct electoral office," he said.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), The Spastics Society, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and Mencap, have joined the MPs' campaign to make it easier for disabled people to vote.

RADAR assistant director Mary Holland said at least half the polling stations in the country are inaccessible, and that the Government should provide 100 per cent grants to make them accessible.

Prescription charge rise

Prescription charges are going up from £3.40 to £3.75 in April, the Government said last month. When the Conservatives came to power in 1979,

charges were 20p. Health Minister Virginia Bottomley said exemption meant "no child, no pensioner and no person on income support" was affected.

THE BEST WAY...

FROM

A

TO

B

IS

If you are in a wheelchair and want to go places, then why not contact **Car Chair Ltd?**

We can help you into the front seat of a standard car with our **Carchair System**, or you can travel in the back in one of a wide range of rear access vehicles.

And, if none of the systems match your needs, we'll design one for you. Getting people mobile has, after all, been our business for many years.

C

CarChair

LTD

THE MOBILITY SPECIALISTS

Freeport BR1032, Dept DN, Hailsham, E. Sussex BN21 1BR
Head Office Tel: (0323) 440606



Farmer White (left) rides the range in his specially adapted Kawasaki Mule. Ian White, paralysed from the waist down after a fall, had been using a heavy tractor to work his 90 acre mixed arable farm in Doncaster. Now he's found the Mule. "Apart from its versatility, there's no hassle with opening doors: I just slide in onto the benchseat, and I can fit my wheelchair in next to me on the floor. Instead of using the foot-pedals, I have a lever to accelerate and brake."

World quest for brain damage answers

A £100 million appeal has been launched to fund research into brain damage in unborn babies.

The Little Foundation charity says around 23,000 babies are born severely brain damaged - including those with epilepsy and cp - in Britain and Northern Ireland each year.

With the World Federation

of Neurology, the Foundation will be setting up 12 international "task forces" of medical scientists worldwide to look at why, how, where and when brain damage occurs and how it can be prevented.

The Foundation hopes the results could help to eliminate brain damage in children by the year 2000.

Contributions to Ian Dawson-Shepherd, The Little Foundation, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Historic bill

Continued from page 1

-tion for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "We are very angry about the way the bill was blocked. I believe it is time for parliamentary procedure to be reviewed and a more equitable system introduced which would prevent an MP from talking a bill out in this way."

Richard Wood, director of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, said: "It is absolutely scandalous that the bill has been killed off in this way. It is appalling that one MP can stop others from voting for a bill that has cross-party support."

Mr Hayward, who has multiple sclerosis, told *DN*: "I did not kill the bill, because it had no chance of going through anyway. I was just trying to put forward my point of view that legislation would not work."

The secretary of the All Party Disablement Group, Tory MP Sir John Hannam, said the bill had been beaten because there was insufficient time to debate it: "MPs would have needed at least another hour's debate before it could have been put to the vote".

Claim now

Continued from page 1

says that over half the fresh claims for Sickness and Invalidity Benefit will be processed in 10 days.

The Benefits Agency's "Customer Charter", from local social security offices, also sets out targets for handling other benefits, how the Agency aims to provide a better service, and what to do if things go wrong.

For a benefits information pack, freephone: 0800 100 123.

40th anniversary

DN will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of The Spastics Society with a colourful supplement to the June issue. Advertisers, don't miss this special opportunity. Contact Richard Gresham, tel: 071 252 1362 NOW!

For your
FREE copy
CALL FREE
0800 800 150
0800 243 123 (text)



The BT Guide for people who are disabled or elderly 1992

The latest products and services to help you use the phone



Disabled fan thrown out of hall

A disabled woman has been thrown out of a concert in Liverpool for making too much noise.

Ying Cheung, who has cerebral palsy and learning disabilities, was among the 2,000 people listening to Beethoven's Violin Concerto at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall in February. Directed by guest conductor Guenther Herbig, the performance was going out live on Radio 3.

After the microphones picked up sounds from Ms Cheung, Mr Herbig stopped the concert and waited for her to be moved. Her wheelchair

was first pushed out of range of the microphones and then out of the hall altogether.

Despite pleas from the Philharmonic's management, the conductor and the BBC would not allow her back in.

Sue Vanden, Philharmonic spokeswoman, said Ms Cheung was a regular concert goer and there had never been any complaints before from the audience or the regular orchestra. But because it was a BBC orchestra and guest conductor, the Hall didn't have as much control as usual.

The BBC has said that while it "deeply regrets" the inci-

dent, "the level of disturbance involved - both for the performers and for the audience - meant there was no alternative if the concert was to continue".

Claire Down, director of L'Arche, Liverpool, said Ms Cheung could not comment as she has no speech and there would be no statement made on her behalf. She accepted that Ms Cheung had been "very vocal".

Ms Vanden said: "Open access has got to mean open access. We are going to instigate a full review of how our disabled access policy works in practice".



Labour leader Neil Kinnock with Karen Rowe, 26, the 1991 Young Deaf Achiever. Ms Rowe won the £500 award, organised by Deaf Accord and sponsored by IBM UK, for her Operation Raleigh work in Chile (during which she learnt basic Spanish by lipreading) and travelling solo around South America. The Royal Mail won the employers' award.

Have chair will travel

People who use wheelchairs now have the right to be taken to hospital appointments in them. Duncan Nichol, chief executive of the NHS management executive, issued the new guidance in February.

Service slammed

The community continence service is "a lottery" for people in residential care, says Jeff Rooker, Labour's shadow minister for community care.

His survey of England's 191 district health authorities says one in three do not supply residential homes with incontinence aids.

"Patients in residential homes should be treated exactly the same as those living in their own home," he said.

Christine Norton, of the Association of Continence Advisors, met Baroness Hooper, Government health spokeswoman in the Lords, last month to discuss ways of improving the service.

Ms Norton commented: "It is ridiculous that the level of service a patient can expect depends on the policy and budget of their health authority. We want the Government to provide health authorities with guidance and examples of good practice, so that a fairer service can be provided."

Job scheme

Leeds City Council has launched a £17,000 project to provide disabled job seekers with information and advice.

In February, the council began a four-month investigation into how it and other agencies can make job seeking easier. When completed, a guide to training and employment will be produced.

Cash for care works

It is a myth that most disabled people cannot organise their own care, says a new report on and by the Independent Living Fund (ILF).

Payments from the £77 million Government-financed Fund enable severely disabled people to live independently in their own homes by buying in care. Over 11,000 people get payments ranging from £5 to over £400 a week.

Cash for Care, published in January, looks at how people are using the payments.

123 clients were interviewed and a postal questionnaire returned by 743 others.

Over three quarters of those interviewed had no major difficulty finding their own care assistants.

People often strongly criticised local authority care for

being limited and using unreliable people who might not be properly trained.

But some felt that the responsibilities of becoming an employer were too much, or became discouraged because initial plans fell through (though problems were often overcome following advice from social workers).

The report says living independently is just as possible for old disabled people as young ones, and that managing their own care arrangements gives people more self-respect.

The fund is due to be wound up in March 1993, when existing beneficiaries will be transferred to a successor body and their payments continued.

£7 plus £1 p&sp, ILF, PO Box 183, Nottingham NG8 3RD

**Once you've seen our
Nissan Prairie Conversion,
you will find there
is no other
choice ...**

SEE US AT THESE
EXHIBITION
DATES

**APRIL
10-11**
N.E. NATIONAL
DISABILITY & MOBILITY
THE NORTHUMBRIA CENTRE
WASHINGTON

MAY 20-22 BIRMINGHAM NAIDEX - NEC

SEP 23-26 BLACKPOOL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL

SEPT 29-OCT 1 LONDON
NAIDEX - WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE

PHONE NOW FOR A HOME DEMONSTRATION AND TRY FOR
YOURSELF HOW EASY AND SIMPLE IT IS. **MAKE A DATE -**
VISIT OUR NEW PURPOSE-BUILT FACTORY IN RURAL DORSET

BROTHERWOOD
A U T O M O B I L I T Y L I M I T E D
PILLAR BOX LANE, BEER HACKETT, DORSET - TEL: 0935 872603

LIGHTWEIGHT

LIGHTWEIGHT 350R, 400R & 425R
Pop it in the boot and go! Our popular **LIGHTWEIGHT** range is designed for easy maintenance and portability, whilst meeting our high standards of comfort for all purpose use.

The choice of finish and supporting accessories make this an ideal chair for people with places to go.

NEWTON Newton Products, Freepost, Birmingham B33 8BR
Tel: 021 783 6081 Fax: 021 783 5723

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

For full information, tick box(es) required and return this coupon to the above address.

☐ MANUAL CHAIRS General Purpose ☐ MANUAL CHAIRS Special Applications ☐ MANUAL CHAIRS Hospital, Nursing/Residential Home & Special Medical use ☐ POWERED CHAIRS General & Special Purpose

DN 392

Cashpoints at your fingertips?

The first cashpoint machine with braille instructions has been developed by the British-based information technology firm, ICL.

People with visual impairments will find the Series 7000 ATM machine "quick, convenient and easy to use", according to ICL's director of

financial services, Nigel Croisdale. It can also be used by non-disabled people.

New features include raised coloured keys, a voice synthesiser and instructions written in large type and bold colours.

A raised lip around the cash card slot makes it easier to feed your card into the machine.

Mr Croisdale said: "It was easy to add the braille keys and cost no more to develop than a conventional cash machine.

"A number of banks are already interested and we hope the machines will be installed

in as many branches as possible around the country".

From a whisper to a shout

Scientists have developed a computerised hearing aid with an automatic volume control sensitive to sudden changes in noise level.

A team led by Dr Brian Moore, of Cambridge Univer-

sity's experimental psychology department, has spent eight years developing the device.

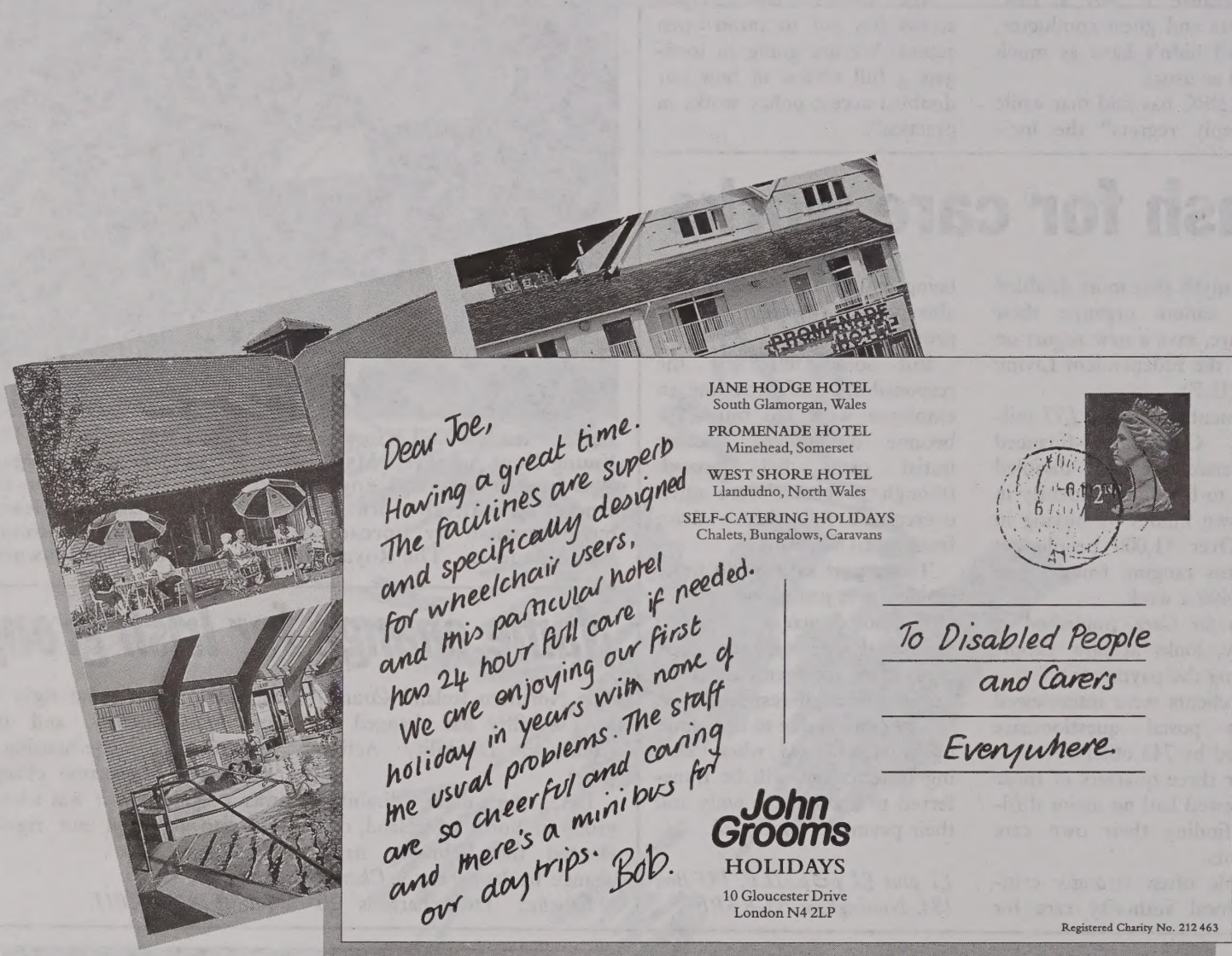
Unlike conventional hearing aids which pick up all sounds equally, the new device will help people pick up faint speech and prevent loud, painful bursts of noise. The size of a cigarette packet, it can be attached to a normal hearing aid by a wire.

Dr Moore, whose work was sponsored by the Medical Research Council and the Hearing Research Trust, said: "People with impaired hearing

often find that, even with an aid, they cannot pick up faint speech and loud sounds can be very painful.

"The new system is a substantial improvement on other hearing aids because it has three automatic volume controls, which take into account variations in overall speech levels and deal with sudden loud noises, such as slamming doors or shouting. It also boosts weak high frequency sounds, such as K and P, which are difficult for partially deaf people to hear."

Dr Moore said two electronics firms were interested in the



Dear Joe,
Having a great time.
The facilities are superb
and specifically designed
for wheelchair users,
and this particular hotel
has 24 hour full care if needed.
We are enjoying our first
holiday in years with none of
the usual problems. The staff
are so cheerful and caring
and there's a minibus for
our daytrips. Bob.

JANE HODGE HOTEL
 South Glamorgan, Wales
 PROMENADE HOTEL
 Minehead, Somerset
 WEST SHORE HOTEL
 Llandudno, North Wales
 SELF-CATERING HOLIDAYS
 Chalets, Bungalows, Caravans

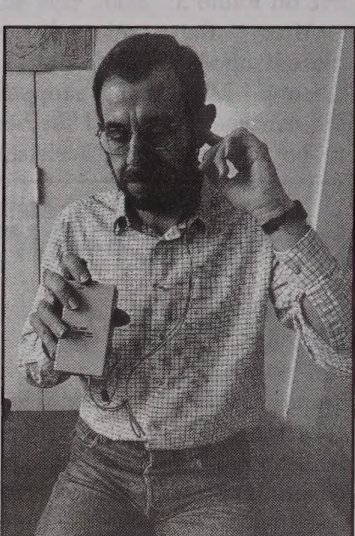
John Grooms
 HOLIDAYS
 10 Gloucester Drive
 London N4 2LP

To Disabled People
and Carers
Everywhere.

Registered Charity No. 212 463

The Jane Hodge Hotel has been specifically designed to offer disabled people, their families and their friends the perfect, trouble-free holiday. The Hotel is set in the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan, and provides guests with all the facilities that they might expect in a modern luxury hotel, while at the same time offering a full range of round-the-clock care services on request. An indoor swimming pool, a sports hall, and outdoor pursuits are all provided to entertain our visitors.

For reduced winter-break rates and more information telephone John Hartley on 081-800 8695



Dr Moore wired for sound
 JULIAN SIMMONDS/ SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

device, which he expects to be on the market within two years.

New drug reduces seizures

The Wellcome Foundation has launched a new drug called Lamictal which "significantly" reduces the number of seizures among people with epilepsy who have secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizures and uncontrolled partial seizures.

People who have secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizures lose consciousness, their body stiffens and muscular spasms occur. People who have partial seizures experience an altered state of awareness and changes in perception of taste, sight and smell.

Most conventional drugs work by increasing the brain's production of seizure-inhibitors which stop nerve cells from becoming over-excited and causing seizures.

Lamictal works differently, by inhibiting production of the chemical which causes brain cells to over-excite.

A world-wide study of over 4,000 people showed that 22 per cent with drug-resistant partial seizures had them reduced by a half, 31 per cent with secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizures had a similar improvement and 13 per cent became seizure free.

Brian Chappell, British Epilepsy Association information and training director, said: "This is a major advance which provides additional help to those with uncontrolled seizures."

IN BRIEF

Disability-minded
Thanks to Barnicoats, the independent paperback booksellers, Barnet Council is to install £7,000 worth of new equipment in its libraries for people with sensory disabilities.
The council plans to buy such things as induction loop and minicom telephone systems for people who are hard of hearing, and magnifiers for people with a visual disability.
A council spokesman said: "We will install the equipment as soon as we have consulted local disability groups and identified what aids they need".

Break for carers
A new charity offering help and support to carers around Cirencester, Gloucestershire, was launched in February.
CareShare employs professional care assistants to look after physically disabled people in the home for up to five hours a week while carers take a break. It is aiming to provide emergency cover and holiday breaks of up to five days too. The service is free to people on benefits.
The charity has been set up by the Cirencester Society for Spastics and Handicapped, helped by £20,000 from The Spastics Society over two years, and support from local social services, the Barnwood House Trust and Crossroads Care.

The Volunteer Centre, 23 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, tel: (0285) 650168.

Loo of the year
Any disabled person caught short near the Basildon Centre in Essex will be able to use the best adapted loo in the country.
Basildon Council received the award in January from Minister of the Environment David Trippier.
Other loos adapted for disabled people which won awards were: Trewins of Watford, Orchard Square Shopping Centre in Sheffield, Dalwhinnie Distillery Visitor Centre in Scotland, Portsmouth D-Day Museum car park and Tesco's supermarket in Stroud.

The first five
The first five UK conductors to be trained at the Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary, have passed their examination and are now qualified.
Elizabeth Bailey, Melanie Brown, Julie Peachey, Wendy Saunders and Elizabeth Southall received their diplomas from Dr Maria Hari in January. They are now back in the UK, working at the Foundation for Conductive Education's Institute in Birmingham.

Your reactions to charity advertising and media images of disability (DN, January) are being held over to next month - Editor.



Going for gold: Mike Hammond training in Austria. THE SUN

Paralympics here we come

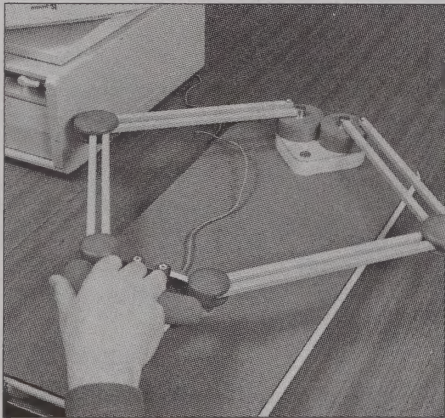
The fifth Winter Paralympics in Albertville, France, start on 25 March. More than 700 top skiers from 24 countries will be competing. The British squad of 16 is the strongest ever sent for a winter event.
The top Alpine skiers are Matthew Stockford, Christine Blackmore and Richard Burt.
Richard, 18, from Wiltshire, is one of Britain's youngest and most talented young stars. Partially sighted, he will be competing in the slalom, giant slalom and downhill events.
After winning three bronze medals at the 1990 world championships he is confident of doing even better in Albertville.
Mike Hammond is another name to watch. The 44-year-old amputee recently beat an able-bodied army ski champion in a 70 mph downhill race in Austria. "It was just the kind of boost I needed before the Games," said Mike.
Peter Young, 36, a blind piano tuner from Dagenham, is the European and world cross country champion. He is going for gold in four events - biathlon, 5km relay, and 10km and 3km cross country.
His training has included fortnightly trips to Norway. "It's expensive, but it will be worth it if I get the gold."

Half the football grounds have no adapted toilet

The Football Supporters Association (FSA) is calling on the Football League's 93 clubs to improve facilities for disabled fans.
Its latest survey reveals that only 23 out of the 70 clubs which replied are able to accommodate more than 20 wheelchair users.
Thirty of these clubs have facilities for blind spectators and 47 have adapted toilets.
"This is just not good enough," said Steve Hart, from Coventry, who compiled the survey for the FSA. "We want disabled people to enjoy matches in a comfortable atmosphere, without having to worry whether they can enter the ground or use the toilets."
Norwich City is one of the few clubs providing good facilities. It has built a covered enclosure for 115 disabled fans, accessible for wheelchair users, with toilet and catering facilities. Admission is free.
While the highest standards were usually found in the top two divisions among clubs with more money, Arsenal has only 20 places for wheelchair users. Leeds and Everton did not even reply.
The FSA accepts that third and fourth division clubs like York City, which has space for only five wheelchair users, can never compete with Norwich.
"But the excellent work of third division Brentford, which provides free transport for disabled fans to and from the ground, shows you don't have to be fabulously rich to give your disabled fans a good service," said Steve Hart.
A spokesperson for the Football Licensing Authority said: "We can't impose these standards, but we do give advice on how grounds can be improved for disabled people".
Survey, free, from Steve Hart, 178 Silverdale Close, Coventry.

Volleyball teams back in

The Great Britain sitting and standing volleyball teams, who were told they could not take part in this summer's Paralympics despite qualifying, will be competing in Barcelona after all.
The International Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ISOD), which is organising the games, first said that as it wanted the games to be more global, nations which had not qualified would be invited to take part at Britain's expense.
But as some of those countries have now decided not to compete, the ISOD has reversed its decision.
Gordon Neale, the British Paralympic Association's volleyball co-ordinator, said: "We are delighted to be allowed back into the games, but are angry at the way we have been treated."
"Both teams qualified on the strength of their high world rankings and should not have been excluded".



People unable to control shaking arms and hands may be able to use a computer with MouseTrap.

MouseTrap enables people with severe tremor, ataxia or athetoid movement to use a computer mouse. Viscous damping smoothes out uncontrolled movements.

"MouseTrap by Liberator"

The Liberator product range helps users to interact with others and improve their environment.
Through a wide range of communication devices, software solutions, and tremor aids life can be richer and more satisfying than ever before.
For more information about our products and services use the coupon or call Freephone 0800 622457.

LIBERATOR 
FIRST IN SERVICE
Whitegates, Swinstead, Lincolnshire NG33 4PA.
Telephone: 047684 391 Fax: 047684 357

The device can be used with a keyboard emulator which draws a keyboard on the screen from which the user can choose keys and thus perform any function, using the mouse.
With MouseTrap some people who could only access a computer using slow single switch tracking methods can now use almost any type of computer programme from word processing to drawing with relative ease and speed.

Please send more information to... DN2865

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TEL. _____

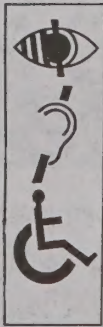
NORTH EASTERN NATIONAL

A CARING EXHIBITION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 1992
10am-5pm

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 1992
9.30am - 5.00pm

TO BE HELD AT THE
NORTHUMBRIA CENTRE,
NORTHUMBERLAND WAY,
WASHINGTON
TYNE & WEAR
(DISTRICT 12)



DISABILITY & MOBILITY
Exhibition

OVER 80
EXHIBITION
STANDS
£250
FREE
DRAW

ADMISSION FREE

Organised by Disability & Mobility Promotions
ANY FURTHER INFORMATION
TEL: 0226 386677 OR FAX 0226 390777



Care Home of the Year: John Grooms' Dolphin Court, where users are in control of their lives, says Lady Wagner (centre).

£1 million for gene therapy

Britain's first gene therapy research programme for cystic fibrosis was launched in February, thanks to a £1 million donation from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust (CFT).

The ten-year project will be looking for ways to treat cystic fibrosis by using gene therapy to replace the faulty gene in people who have the condition.

The money came to the CFT from the trustees of the

estate of Leopold Muller, founder of the De Vere Hotels Group.

Mr Muller died in 1988, leaving almost his entire £15 million estate to charity.

The programme will be led by Professor Bob Williamson at St Mary's hospital in West London.

"This donation brings the prospect of gene therapy much closer," he said. "I believe the

first attempts to use the technique will be made within the next two years."

A CFT spokesman said: "The research will be complementary to research in America, where scientists have already transplanted a healthy cystic fibrosis gene into the lungs of a rat.

"We believe the same technique could be used on humans."

NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP YOU CHOOSING A PEUGEOT



You've admired them from afar. (Perhaps they weren't within your range).

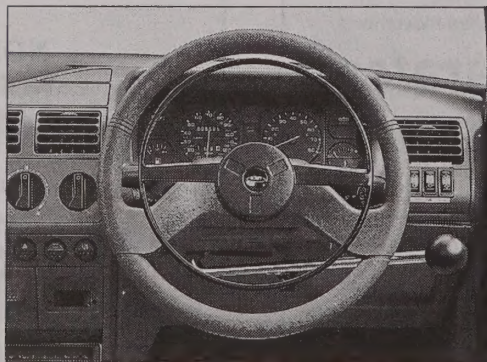
In which case, it's time you took a closer look.

A brand new Peugeot 106 or 205 is now available to you at an initial rental that simply couldn't be lower.

Nil, to be precise.

In terms of style, performance, comfort and handling, the 106 and 205 could hardly be improved.

For your particular needs, however,



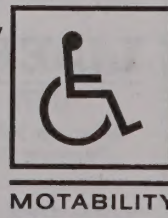
improvements could hardly be easier.

Your dealer can arrange for your chosen vehicle (including the very competitively priced 309, 405 or 605)

to take swivel seats, hand controls, and cranes for wheelchairs, with a minimum of fuss.

Should other special features such as electric windows, or a sunroof seem a refreshing idea, we're sure that your Peugeot Representative will be equally accommodating.

For further information, please contact your local Peugeot Dealer, who will be able to help you decide which model best suits your needs.



PEUGEOT

Peugeot Motability Department 0203 884000

Eye tests at home

The private health company, Healthcall, has launched a national scheme to help elderly and disabled people who are entitled to free NHS eye tests.

It will send teams of qualified opticians into care homes and sheltered accommodation.

The care homes will not be charged because Healthcall can claim the NHS fee from the local health authority. But patients not entitled to free tests will be charged.

Marilyn Drummer, general manager of Healthcall's optical service, said: "Most patients living in care are entitled to NHS tests, but many have not had their eyes tested for years because they are unable to visit high street opticians. Our new service will enable these people to receive the annual tests they are entitled to."

A spokesperson for The Royal National Institute for the Blind welcomed the idea: "We support any service that makes eye testing easier for people, especially the elderly".

Details from Marilyn Drummer, Healthcall Optical Service, 401 South Row, Milton Keynes, MK9 2PH, tel: (0908) 691919.

Handy help

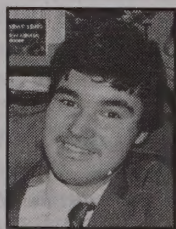
Disabled Automobile Association (AA) members will soon be able to summon help without leaving their car. The AA is to introduce a new, personal emergency phone by June.

Motorists will be able to contact the AA or emergency services by plugging the portable phone into the car cigarette lighter and extending an aerial.

The phone will cost under £200 and all calls are to be free. But there will be a £35 connection charge and a monthly rental fee of £10.

Atila the winner

The Honeywell/Sunday Times British Innovation Awards Trophy Competition has been won by Atila Unver, 14, from Richard Cloudsley School, London.



FLEET

THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.



Renault Extra Van from Poyntings: "refined"



Devon Voyager: "quiet and smooth"



Chairman Vista from Gowrings: "easy-drive style"

Which one for wheelchair passengers?

Following his 1991 report on conversions, *DN* motoring correspondent David Griffiths checks out three more models

Disabled passengers often have to spend as much if not more than the disabled driver to get their wheels, with little to guide them.

The three vehicles for this report were selected from the lower price range to complement those from last year (*DN*, March 1991).

The route chosen for each test was identical: undulating, pot-holed, class-B roads, an unclassified lane with an ascent of 1 in 7 and an extremely rough descent of 1 in 4, plus some varied surfaces, severe adverse cambered bends and a stretch of smooth straight main trunk road. Four passengers were carried each time, and cushions were left off power chairs to help amplify any ride characteristics, good or bad.

The Chairman Vista

The cheapest of the vehicles tested, the Gowrings Vista, is claimed to be the most popular vehicle of its type available on the Motability Hire Scheme.

Based on the Spanish Seat Terra, it is a small, neat, high-roofed van with big picture-windows. Access is via a very sturdy ramp, which whilst steep, feels safe enough with the inertia-belts hooked up to the front of the chair. Once in, I was firmly tied down with the ramp folded up solidly against the back of the chair instilling a surprisingly "safe" feeling.

The suspension being pretty firm, a choppy ride was the order of the day. It wasn't particularly uncomfortable though, and the vehicle rode over rougher stretches and potholes well (humps and depressions need a little care).

With just 900cc under the bonnet, the Vista is no hot-rod but it took the 1 in 7 in its stride and cruised at 60 mph on the open road happily enough. When fully loaded, 60 mph is about as much as you can expect to get out of it. Overtaking at such speeds is a matter for careful judgement and favourable road conditions, but it didn't sound stressed and felt stable and secure on good surfaces. Funnily enough, it was

the smooth asphalt which let it down, with a constant suspension vibration appearing at anything over 55. Although not especially jolting, it would be irritating on a longer journey.

All-round vision is pretty good and noise level was acceptable, although conversation between driver and the rear passenger requires considerable lung-effort at average speeds. The internal finish, though plain and simple, was on a par with Gowrings' more up-market models.

The Devon Voyager

Devon Conversions is one of the most respected vehicle adaptors, specialising largely in medium-size buses and motor homes. This skill is evident as soon as you open the rear doors. Smooth, perfectly upholstered passenger seats give the little Voyager a welcoming appearance and a feeling of comfort and professionalism. The deep brown colour was a change from the ubiquitous grey.

The Fiorino has a high stance so gaining access always involves a steepish incline. Devon have helped ease the problem by extending the incline through the floor pan, a practice adopted by a number of converters.

Unfortunately, this meant that my BEC Horizon chair would not sit on the level section since the slope extended too far forward, leaving the rear wheels of the chair just short of the top of the incline. A small matter you might think, but it made it difficult to park the chair in the "right" spot.

Unusually, this vehicle uses Unwin clamping units with two short lengths of tracking rather than belt harnessing.

All this made an unhappy marriage as far as my chair was concerned. Being unable to achieve a horizontal clamping position made it impossible to lock the chair down securely.

After considerable experimentation it was obvious that a really secure position would need a differently dimensioned chair, or the replacement of the

Unwin clamps with an inertia belt system, which would also do away with a wire hawser power winch which seemed prone to jamming.

My Voyager had a 1.7 litre diesel engine, but far from being clattery, it was one of the quietest and smoothest of all the rear-entry vehicles I have tested. The torque from the excellent engine provided a very impressive ascent of the 1 in 7, and on the open class A road the legal limit found the Voyager cruising quietly.

All-round vision is pretty good. The only minus is a pronounced body roll on adverse cambers and sharp bends. Conversation between driver and passengers presented no problems on all but the most critical throttle settings.

Poynting Extra Van

There can be few firms who have the experience of building and modifying rear entry vehicles for disabled people that Poynting Conversions has, and this latest offering is as smooth and refined as anything you are likely to find.

The years of listening to customers is reflected in the unique double-fold ultra-light ramp and the choice of clamping systems - conventional inertia belt or their own ingenious bar system which locks onto the rear wheels of manual wheelchairs and is simplicity itself to use - whilst the unique folding double rear seat is a revelation in terms of ingenuity and versatility.

On the road the vehicle gives a typically soft Renault ride more akin to that of a small luxury saloon car than a van. The absence of body-roll contributed to a feeling of confident safety and I was able to view the passing countryside in complete relaxation.

The example on test included an extended roof option which creates an amazing feeling of spaciousness so that even with a full complement of passengers in the double rear seat I still felt I had plenty of breathing room.

All-round vision is excellent

and stability is good no matter what the road conditions. Interior finish is high standard and the roof-option gives the vehicle a particularly attractive outline when viewed from the side, as well as improving the drag factor. Performance was excellent with plenty of verve from the little 1.4 petrol engine (1.2 petrol and 1.6 diesel options are available, plus a 1.2 catalyser), and the vehicle can more than hold its own in any traffic conditions.

Summary

Gowrings Chairman Vista, the only one of the three available on Motability Hire, is the cheapest and most basic, with the smallest power unit. It is not as comfortable at speed and the small engine means a shorter mechanical life.

But its simplicity and easy-to-drive style in traffic makes up for many shortcomings, as does the claimed economy (40mpg plus). It's the ideal choice for the city dweller whose journeys are usually short. If you often go on longer hauls it is not for you.

The Devon Voyager is surprisingly comfortable and smooth with exemplary build and finish. Fiat users lay claim to a consumption of up to 70mpg in ideal conditions, and whilst the high additional cost of the diesel variant may seem questionable, there is no denying the lower running costs.

A pity that the wheelchair anchorage is not very practical, but some people may find their chairs suit the layout better. The alternative solution would be to opt for the Sidewinder lift which gives a flat floor area the full length of the vehicle. There is little difference in the cost but check carefully if headroom is at a premium.

The Renault Extra Van from Poynting Conversions wins in terms of passenger carrying, looks and comfort. The lightweight ramp will find favour with weaker helpers and drivers too. The ride is on a par with rivals costing nearly twice the price, and the optional rear seat system is commendably versatile.

Options

Gowrings Chairman Vista
Seat: 900cc, petrol. £8,905 (all prices given are for models as tested and assuming VAT exemption). Gowrings Mobility, tel. (0635) 871502.

The Devon Voyager Fiat Fiorino: 1.7, diesel. £11,797 (or £8,997 if you have the telescopic ramps instead of the lowered floor pan on the model I tested). Devon Conversions (CP) Ltd, tel. (0392) 211611.

The Renault Extra: 1.4 petrol. £10,081 (cost-conscious buyers can bring this down to just under £8,868 by foregoing the extended roof and opting for a 1.2 engine in place of the 1.4). Poynting Conversions, tel. (0722) 336048.

MOBILITY VEHICLE SEARCH

"The Best Way to Buy or Sell Your Vehicle"

One phone call to **MOBILITY VEHICLE SEARCH** will provide you with details of vehicles for sale meeting your specific requirements and put you in direct contact with the sellers **FREE OF CHARGE.**

We have a large selection of vehicles listed for sale at bargain prices on our computer database i.e. mini buses, adapted saloons, hatchbacks, estates, bartricals, scooters, wheelchairs, stairlifts etc... For a single inexpensive fee we will advertise your vehicle nationwide **UNTIL SOLD!**

CALL MOBILITY VEHICLE SEARCH NOW



0992-654663



Run By The Disabled For The Disabled

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO: Mobility Vehicle Search, 74 Mandeville Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 6SL

Alf Morris: a man with a mission

Alf Morris was bitterly disappointed but remained defiant after his Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill failed to gain a second reading in the House of Commons on 31 January.

"It is disgraceful that in a country that is supposed to respect human rights, people face prejudice and exclusion for no other reason than the disability they have," he said.

His commitment to helping disabled people stems from his childhood in Manchester.

His father, a signwriter, was severely disabled during the First World War and faced long periods of unemployment as a result of injuries and the Depression.

"He lost a leg and an eye in the war," said Mr Morris. "His lungs had also been damaged by mustard gas. He later developed tuberculosis and died when I was seven years old."

Further experience of caring for disabled people came when he married in 1950 and moved into the home of his wife's parents. His mother-in-law was a wheelchair user with rheumatoid arthritis while his father-in-law had chronic bronchitis.

"I have learnt as a result of these experiences that disability is a family affair," he said. "It is ridiculous for anyone to call disability a minority issue when

it affects the lives of everyone living with and caring for a disabled person so drastically."

He was furious when the war office refused to provide his mother with a war widow's pension.

"Mother wrote to our local [Labour] MP, Harry Thorneycroft, asking for help. It can't have been the most elegant letter he ever received because she didn't write many, but he said he would do all he could."

"He pegged away at Whitehall and after two years the war office reversed their original decision. My mother was so grateful that she insisted I became an MP so that I could go and help Mr Thorneycroft in the House of Commons."

Alf Morris left school at the age of 14 but, after a spell in the army, he secured a place at Oxford to read modern history. He became involved in politics and the Labour Party.

In 1964, he joined his eldest brother Charles in the House of Commons.

As Labour MP for Wythenshawe, he called for greater access for people with mobility problems, before winning the ballot for Private Members' Bills in November 1969.

He set about drafting the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Bill, which required

local authorities to maintain a register of people with disabilities and provide them with specific services.

intimidate me into dropping the bill because I was a relatively inexperienced MP," said Alf. But he won all-party sup-

France, are now showing us the way forward."

Although Alf seems genial enough, he can be a tough customer if pressed - a TV reporter who interrupted our interview with what Alf regarded as loaded questions got short shrift.

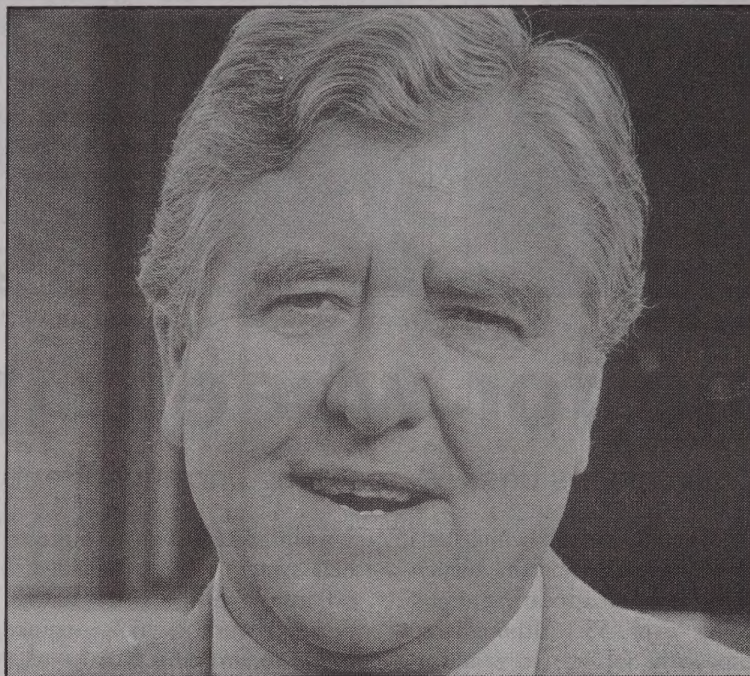
In his experience, the soft touch does not always work. "The Government spent £7m trying to educate people to use car seatbelts but failed. Instead they had to legislate. They have not spent anything like that amount on trying to change public attitudes to people with disabilities, yet they still insist that education remains the way forward."

In 1974 he was made the first Minister for Disabled People and legislated to create new cash benefits, including the mobility allowance, disabled housewife's allowance, invalid care allowance and a non-contributory invalidity pension.

Now 63, with four grown-up children, he would like to be Minister for Disabled People again. Meanwhile he will have another go this month at pushing his bill through Parliament.

He promises: "If the bill is not enacted, Labour will ensure it becomes law after we win the next election."

Tim Russell



Alf Morris: bitterly disappointed but still defiant

With an election imminent he had to work fast, and with no Government support the chances of the bill becoming law were slim. It was opposed by Health and Social Security Secretary, Richard Crossman, who believed that if legislation had been needed, his department would have introduced it.

"Crossman thought he could

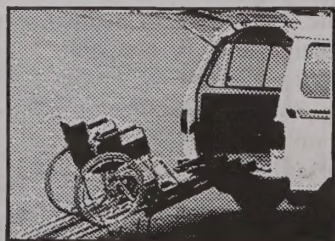
port and the 1970 Act was "a watershed" in parliamentary legislation, according to Sir John Hannam, secretary of the all-party disablement group.

But now Britain, which once led the world, is lagging behind, said Mr Morris. "It is a tragedy that countries which once followed our example, such as America, Australia and



NISSAN

★VERSA★



* PETROL
£9495
* DIESEL
£9995

PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY NUMBER PLATES AND ASSUMES EXEMPTION FROM ROAD FUND LICENCE

All conversions subject to Appendix B of Relief Form VAT and Car Tax as amended in the 1983 Acts.

CONTACT HOWARD SAMUELS
OR JOHN LEACH

EXTRAS PACK

2 x SUNROOFS
STEREO/RADIO CASSETTE
WITH 4 SPEAKERS
3 YEAR WARRANTY
3 YEAR FULL R.A.C. COVER
£795

ELECTRIC WINCH
£300

ELECTRIC TAIL LIFT
£1200

Customised
mobility
for the less
mobile

Introducing the VERSA, A vehicle designed specifically with the less mobile in mind. With built-in versatility, the VERSA offers a variety of features designed to cater for very special needs.

By using different combinations of seating arrangements, up to four able-bodied passengers may be easily accommodated together with two wheelchair-bound passengers. Alternatively, up to five able-bodied passengers may be seated with a single wheelchair-bound passenger.

UNIQUE TO

Widnes
CAR CENTRE LTD.

TEL: 051-420-2000

ALL ASPECTS OF MOTABILITY
CATERED FOR WITH PLEASURE

Lincolnshire enterprise leads the way

As Training and Enterprise Councils fight for this year's funding, Abdul Mansour shows what one of them is doing for disabled people

These are crucial times for Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) whose Youth Training (YT) and Employment Training (ET) responsibilities include people with "special training needs".

Last year the Government made an across-the-board cut in YT funding of around 5 per cent which they managed to cope with. But over the past month, as they put in their bids for 1992-3 and negotiated individually with the Department of Employment, many have reported a big gap between what they have been offered and what they know they need.

If TECs do not get more money to help with the greater expense of special needs training, it is feared that disabled people will lose the opportunities to which they are entitled.

TECs were announced in a Government White Paper, *Employment for the 1990s*, in December 1988. The first ones opened in April 1991 and now there are 82 in England and Wales, with another 22 similar Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland.

They are all private companies, each with a board of nine to 15 members, two thirds of whom must come from the private sector. Their role is to fund training, not provide it.

Under an operating agreement with the Employment Department, TECs must guarantee to train all young people aged 16-17 who are leaving full-time education and have no job, and some beyond 18 who have had a disrupted education, as well as some adults.

A survey published last October by Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities found that TECs and LECs were "taking seriously their responsibilities towards people with special training needs" and 74 of the 79 who replied had designated a staff member for this area.

But "widespread concern" was expressed about meeting the guarantee, given the existing funding.

There was also concern that the way funding has been organised, with its emphasis on getting National Vocational Qualifications or a permanent job, is an impediment to people with special needs. (In my opinion this concern is rather patronising, because it pre-supposes that disabled people with

special needs are low achievers. They have just as much right to a positive outcome from their training as anyone else.)

The Skill survey also found that while some TECs and LECs were developing new ideas, there was little consistency, and "a real need for guidance and sharing information about helpful practice".

Lincolnshire TEC, which I joined in December, has made training for disabled people and those with special needs a priority. It is showing what can be done and perhaps it can inspire others.

First of all, it has removed disabled people from the umbrella of people "with special training needs". The TEC defines "disabled" as those with permanent physical, sensory, learning and illness impairments which might mar their training or employment

"If TECs do not get more money ... it is feared that disabled people will lose the opportunities to which they are entitled"

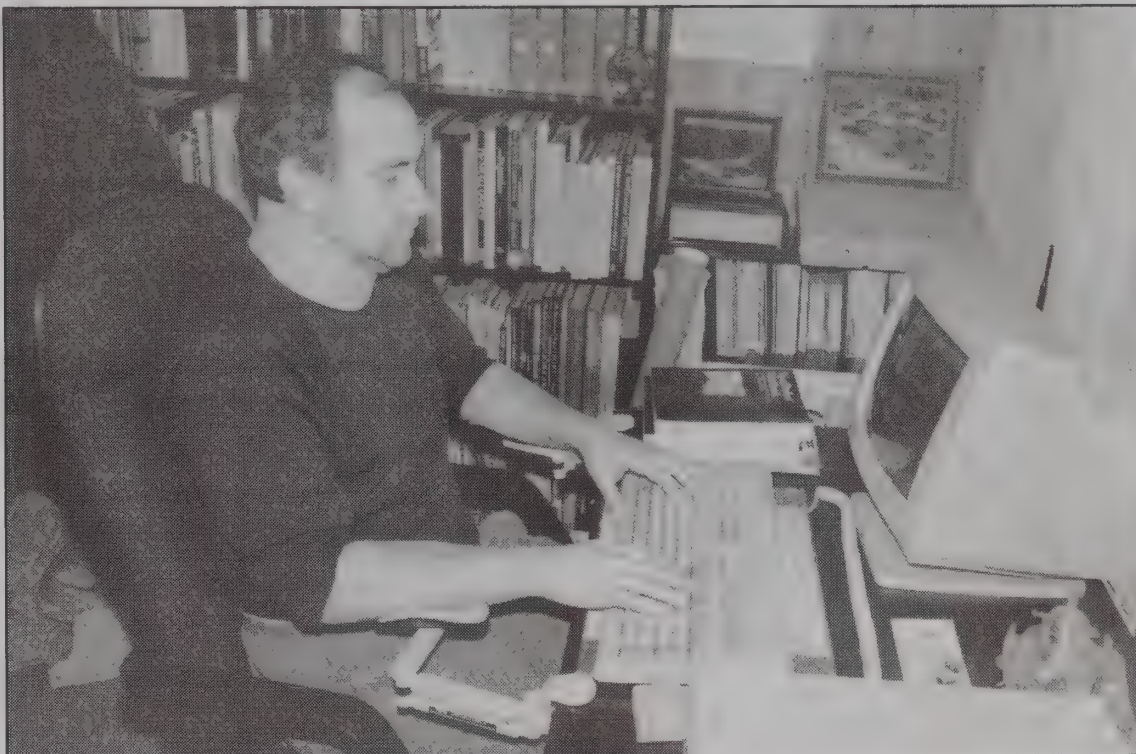
prospects. "Special needs" includes those needing significant, but temporary, extra support, such as people with literacy or numeracy problems, long-term unemployed, women returning to work or people from ethnic minorities.

The TEC is committed to looking at the whole person, giving excellent training and requiring continuous progress.

In spite of the Government cut last year it will spend £1.5m (15 per cent) of its £10.8m YT budget and £50,000 (14 per cent) of its ET budget on disability/special needs. It has increased the three-month initial training places in YT for them from 125 to 170.

The 650 disabled/special needs YT training places have been kept. 191 trainees have found jobs and the figure should be 90 per cent by April.

To help offset any financial loss made by YT training providers (schools, colleges and businesses), the disabled/special needs supplement has been increased from £20 to £25 a week and a bonus of £250 is paid to training agencies for every disabled/special needs



With Lincolnshire TEC's support, Mark Farley could become a landscape gardener.

trainee who finds a job.

Up to £50 a week can be claimed by disabled/special needs trainees for transport expenses.

On the ET front, emphasis has been put on long-term unemployed people: 90 per cent have been unemployed for six months or more.

Mothers doing training receive up to £50 a week child care support.

Partnered by the Lincolnshire College of Art and Design, Lincolnshire TEC has spent £28,000 on setting up an educational support service for adults with literacy or numeracy problems, and has won £90,000 from the Employment Department for developing it.

Three mobile classrooms now tour the county offering training.

Lincolnshire TEC has also helped over 40 trainees with disability/special needs by providing adaptations and special equipment.

For example, Mark Farley, 31, who aims to set up his own landscape gardening business, can keep going with computer training because he now has Ergorset supports for his arms, a highback office chair with special headrest and a footrest.

Lincolnshire TEC does not just have one person nominally responsible for disability/special needs. A Disability and Special Needs Unit was set up in December, with a budget of £70,000, to look at equal opportunities practices, raise awareness among trainers, trainees and businesses, and find further funding.

It has already discovered that eight (12 per cent) of the 64 staff employed by the TEC have a physical disability, well above the three per cent "quota".

The Unit has put forward proposals for ten projects. Among them are

- * an ongoing survey to up-date the numbers of disabled and special needs people in the county so as to plan more efficiently for them
- * a conference, to be held in

June, for businesses and training agencies to explore the problems of employing disabled/special needs people. (A recent study with Lincolnshire city council found that when companies were asked if they were prepared to employ disabled people, 45 per cent responded either no or left the box blank.)

- * awareness days for organisations, disabled people and their parents

- * an audit of trainers of disabled/special needs people to evaluate their training methods
- * in partnership with Cambridgeshire TEC, a plan to train 32 disabled people in management skills

- * seminars and workshops to raise awareness of training and legal rights among people from ethnic minorities.

These ambitious projects will

depend for their success on a lot of commitment and coordination from local business, councils, voluntary organisations and other TECs. And, of course, secure funding.

As I write this article, Lincolnshire TEC is still negotiating its budget with the Employment Department. The YT section is the sticking point. "We must have the right level of funding to do the job properly," says chief executive, David Rossington. "And central Government must take its share of the responsibility for providing those funds."

Abdul Mansour is on a year's secondment from The Spastics Society to Lincolnshire TEC to run the Disability and Special Needs Unit. He would like to hear about similar projects. Tel: (0522) 532266.

"Make climbing stairs easy with one phone call"

One call is all it takes to find out how you can carry on enjoying life in your own home - with a Stannah Stairlift.

Stannah Stairlifts

Phone FREE (0800) 378386 and ask for EXT 724, or return the coupon below.

Call us for friendly advice, or return the coupon below.

For your colour Information Pack please complete and return to:
Stannah Stairlifts Limited, Dept 5975, FREEPOST, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

Stannah Stairlifts Limited is part of the Stannah Lifts Group.



The NEW

front-wheel drive

Liberty 2

If you like to get around, despite difficulty walking, take a look at the new **Liberty 2** from Everest & Jennings.

A marvel in mobility, it makes light work of kerbs, not only going *up* kerbs forwards but *down* kerbs forwards - with full view of the road.

It's practical, it's comfortable and it's unique. Both indoors and out the **Liberty 2** performs quietly and confidently.

It moves around the home with ease, turning on its own axis.

Robust for use outside, the large front wheels are ideal on rough ground. And it's portable too.

Enjoy a new freedom, style and versatility with the **Liberty 2** - an outstanding powered wheelchair.

■ Takes kerbs in its stride - forwards!

■ Superbly manoeuvrable - turns on its own axis

■ Ideal indoors or out - compact, yet robust

■ Comfortable and quiet

■ Portable for exploring further afield

■ Minimal maintenance

Liberty 2

Is there a better way to go forward?



A product of
N.E.H. Mobility
(A division of Nesbit Evans Healthcare)



Everest & Jennings *Quality and service that leads the way*

Send for colour brochure TODAY

To: NEH Mobility 15 Cronin Courtyard Weldon South Industrial Estate, Corby, Northants NN18 8AD TEL: 0536 67660 FAX: 0536 402507 Please send me details of the New Liberty 2

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

DN392

The Balmoral BATH LIFTER

- enjoy a bath in comfort again

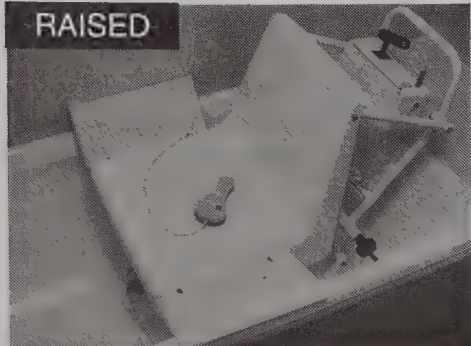
The safe and easy way to get in and out of the bath

Remember how wonderful it was to ease yourself into a luxurious warm bath? Now you can enjoy the pleasures of a real bath again thanks to the Balmoral Bath Lifter.

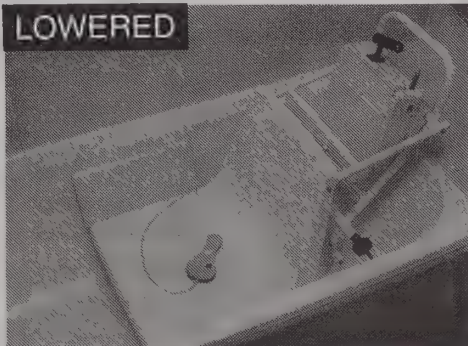
You'll be confident lowering yourself into the bath and be sure that once you're ready to come out, it won't be a painful struggle. Simply place the Balmoral in your existing

bath. It requires no alterations to your bathroom and there are no trailing leads. There's virtually no maintenance and it's easy to keep clean too. It's easy to remove and lightweight to carry for holidays. No wonder it's so popular in private and professional homes across the UK.

RAISED



LOWERED



HOW IT WORKS

The Balmoral is strong and safe - relax into the seat with confidence. It operates via easily rechargeable batteries.

The seat rests on a cushion of air for a quiet and comfortable ride. A hand-held switch controls movement up or down and rests on the bath side or clips on the wall whilst not in use.

The siderests fold in as the seat lowers and open out when the lifter is raised.

- Total reassurance and independence in bathing
- Smooth and quiet in operation
- Requires no water pressure or mains electricity
- Outstanding value for money
- 3-year guarantee available



Attractive, easy to clean and totally reliable the Balmoral is all that's best in a bath lifter.

To: Nesbit Evans Healthcare Limited, 1 Regent Road, City, Liverpool L3 7BX Please arrange: ☐ A free colour brochure ☐ A free home demonstration of the Balmoral

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

DN 392



Llewellyn Community Care

A Division of Nesbit Evans Healthcare Ltd
1 Regent Road, City, Liverpool L3 7BX
Telephone: 051 236 5311 Fax: 051 236 4698
A member of the Nesbit Evans Group of Companies

SEND TODAY



Being out-of-doors is freedom: Tony with "friend" Suzana.

My name is Todorka, but all my friends call me Tony.

I am almost 50, and live in a special centre for disabled people in the town of Stara Zagora.

In Bulgaria, parents very often send their disabled child to a residential school, where they live and study until, at 16, they are transferred to an adult centre or to a nursing home with elderly people.

Very few disabled people stay at home with their parents and study at a primary school or high school and, even if they do, it is almost impossible to find a job afterwards. Even with high school education, most people have to work in special factories. They are miserably paid, and it is rare to find an administrative job in any of them.

For a wheelchair user it is impossible to find any job except making paper bags or clothes.

I finished my primary school education in hospital and then went home to live with my father, step-mother, two brothers and a sister. I took the secondary school examinations as a private student and graduated well.

Although my father wanted me to go to university, I was pessimistic about my future. There was no government money or help and at 20 I did not know how I would live. But I went along with my father's wish, decided to study languages and took the examination. There were 300 applicants and only 17 were accepted; I was one of them.

How could I forget that sunny day in 1963 when I went to take my first examination. I drove my three-wheeler to the university, then my father carried me up the steps. What a lot of steps! Even now they are a major problem for me.

Next year I took exams to study English. The teachers were surprised by the results. One teacher asked me why I

wanted to change from Russian to English. Frustrated because my father had gone off somewhere and I had waited in a cold hall for five hours, I replied, "I hope with English it will be easy to find a job."

The truth was that I did not hope at all. After a year of searching I was so depressed that I could hardly find the courage to continue studying at university. "Knows English? Let her come at once. What? Disabled? Oh, no, no. Try a special factory."

It became hard to stay at home because of my step mother, so I decided to go to a residential home in a small town near Sophia because there I could live independently and work painting children's toys - it was better than making paper bags and well paid then.

I stayed nine years and they were the best years. The home was in the centre of town and I could go everywhere in my wheelchair. In spite of my disability I was young, strong and happy. Very soon I had a lot of friends. I worked hard, spent money and bought a car. I drove it all over the country.

Then I moved back to Stara Zagora, to this new, modern centre which had all the facilities to give a disabled person independence.

But from the beginning I was disappointed. The building is 5 km from the centre of town, on a hill, so travel by wheelchair into town is almost impossible.

Luckily I still have my car; it is old but it still moves. I put the wheelchair in the car and drive to the centre. Someone in the street helps me with the wheelchair and I go to the cinema or concert, shopping or merely for a walk with my little white dog, Dolly. She is my best friend, and though she is not allowed in the home I keep her in the car and she goes everywhere with me.

Some years ago, when prices

It's a dog's life being disabled in Bulgaria

Nothing has changed say "Tony" Ovtchazova and Isabella Tchepileva

were not so high and I worked, we went by car to Germany, USSR and Greece.

In Greece I was with a disabled friend who could walk. I won't forget the street in Thessaloniki where all the cars waited for me to cross. Tanja bravely pushed my wheelchair. I had never met such treatment and was deeply moved.

At the seaside I saw two young men, one black, the other blonde, who had just met and were having a quiet chat as if they were friends. I listened to their friendly words and thought how they were the future - not that bright future that the Communist ideology promised - and I was envious because our system made us prisoners, unable to come up to somebody and say hello.

What is it like to be disabled in Bulgaria? I put that question to a young man sitting near me as I write and he said "Hell".

If a disabled person is in a state institution nobody looks on them as a human being. If they live at home they get some money, but if they have no home they have no rights and receive only 70 leva a week after the government has taken off the fees of the centre

(40 leva = £1).

For many years I tried to live in my own flat. But to get an accessible flat in Bulgaria is to get a ticket to another planet.

I have a Carters English wheelchair and I am always out-of-doors because I can't bear the depressing atmosphere indoors. But the chair will be unusable soon because the tyres cannot be replaced.

Prices for food and petrol go higher every day. I worked at the factory for almost 20 years and I can't even pay the fees at the social centre.

"You have food and a roof, what more do you want?" said the Minister for Social Help. Food and a roof may be enough for an animal, but for a human being to feel like a human being it is not enough.

We disabled people in residential homes protested against high fees. Nobody paid any attention to our protest.

I asked a friend, Isabella Tchepileva, aged 25, to explain how she feels, as someone from a younger generation:

"Just over two years ago, a Union of Disabled was established. But the good intentions remained only intentions. There are so many economic problems that it will be many years before the

attitudes of government and society change and things improve.

"I use a wheelchair and live with my mother in a flat on the second floor. There is no lift and no ramp. The flat has narrow rooms and narrow doors. My wheelchair cannot get into the bathroom or toilet so my mother carries me.

"There are no organisations to help disabled people and their parents. As the salaries in Bulgaria are very low, disabled people only receive about 700 leva per month (£17.50) from the government. (A loaf of bread costs 7 leva.)

"My mother works, looks after me, keeps up our home and the old, broken car. Thanks to my mother, I studied and graduated from university last year in philology and journalism, Spanish and French. But I can't find a job. I get exactly the same reaction from employers that Tony used to.

"But we don't lose hope that some day people will turn their heads to us and see that we are just as they are - normal, intelligent, skillful."

Tony Ovtchazova, Dom Za Invalidi, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, welcomes letters and will pass letters on to Isabella.

CONVERSIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR DISABLED DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS

Hand controls, left/right foot accelerators, ramps, roof mounted wheelchair carriers, electric wheelchair hoists, swivel seats, infra-red spinners, cantilever handbrakes, button depressants, steering spinners, pedal guards and mods, seat modifications and lumbar supports, He-Man dual instructor controls.

Renault Extra, Seat Vista, Ford Transit and Ford Courier

Conversions for wheelchair passengers.

For literature and prices contact:



Renault Extra Conversion

**POYNTING
CONVERSIONS**

Faraday Road
Churchfields Ind. Est.
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP2 7NR

0722 336048

Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Charging for services

I was interested in your article (*DN*, January) about protests to the Health Secretary over charging disabled people for community care services.

As a portent of things to come, I have just received the Borough of Barnet's draft Community Health Plan for 1992-3 which states categorically: "The Local Authority has to maximise possible income from provision of services and ensure that users of services pay what they can reasonably afford towards their costs". Hence, "a new charging policy will be developed and introduced".

Barnet already means tests many of the services it formerly provided free. For example, when I was hospitalised for a month, my wife, who is very disabled, required 24 hour care at home. For this we were charged £30 per day. Home help to clean and shop now costs £4.70 per hour.

My wife goes to a day care centre twice a week free of charge. Will they start means testing that as well? Once we start down the slippery slope of means testing, middle class people will find - as they do in the USA - that they have to become virtual paupers before they can expect assistance from the community.

Some say that means testing is necessary to assure services to the neediest. But those of us who pay our poll tax and our

income tax are presumably paying for the provision of services to those who need them, eg the disabled. Why should we have to pay again when we need these services, while many of those who are not paying poll tax or income tax receive them for nothing?

In my view, all disabled people who need services in the community should receive those services free of charge as a matter of right. If this means raising taxes, so be it. That is the only fair and equitable way of doing things in a democratic society.

Stanley P Harris
London N2

New tribunals discriminate

Independent tribunals have been set up to deal with appeals arising from the Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance, which come into effect in April.

Each tribunal is composed of three people, one of whom must be "non-medical" and "ideally have some personal, practical or professional experience of disability". Lay members receive £106 plus expenses for a day a month and the homework.

As a disabled person living on benefits who was offered a place on a tribunal, I find it very distressing that there is no legislation to protect us.

Any pay and expenses due to me would have been docked from my benefits, and there is

no way to divert those payments to a charity or to treat them as just expenses. So I decided to decline the offer.

The very people who should be on the tribunals are the people who are having to turn down a place just to keep their benefits.

It is widely thought by the voluntary sector that the tribunals will only be able to run on a fair basis if all people are given equal opportunities and those with disabilities are not discriminated against.

Bob Whittingham
PHALANX, Hertfordshire
Coalition of Disabled People,
Stevenage, Herts

Spiritual healing

With regard to the rather bland review of Jennifer Rees Larcombe's book, *Unexpected Healing* (*DN*, February), I felt so much was missed out that I would like to comment as a multiply-disabled person who is a Methodist local preacher.

I have recently been involved in several healing services and have been asked to take part in the laying on of hands, which is something I find immensely moving. I am not setting myself up as a healer, but as a channel for God's work.

As a blind person, I greatly believe in the power of touch; so did our Lord Jesus Christ.

He also believed that inner wholeness was far more important than physical cure, hence the healing of the paralysed man (Mark 2, 1-12). Wholeness of body is not as important as mind and spirit.

Wonderful though this healing was, it begs the question, why doesn't God heal every disabled person?

Disability is not an outward manifestation of sin and it may well be that God wants to use our weakness and make it our strength.

This book taught me to believe in God's healing power more strongly and to ask for his help in a more fervent way. Perhaps healing is not physical cure, but the healing of attitude to one's disability.

Lin Berwick
Hornchurch, Essex

Lib Dems ahead

The Liberal Democrats are a party committed to access and open communication for disabled people and, as such, welcome efforts from any party on this issue and in particular the work of Norman Tebbit on open captions (*DN*, January).

However, as the first party to introduce sign interpreters to our conference, and the first to have closed as well as open captions for political broadcasts (with similar lack of enthusiasm from the BBC), we must express our belief that this is not enough and our desire to see the efforts of all parties continue to expand. "Trail blazing" is not a one-off event and, despite more limited resources than the other two parties, we will continue to push back barriers to access during the General Election, by using induction loops at all public meetings and sign interpreters at larger meetings, continuing both open and closed captions for broadcasts and having our manifesto in more than one format.

Alison Holmes
Planning Coordinator
General Election Unit
Liberal Democrats

No action from Maclaren

Following my letter, (*DN*, January 1991), I am letting you know the response I received when I wrote to Maclaren asking them how the changes suggested by myself and many other carers who use the Major buggy were progressing.

The main criticisms were lack of support, uncomfortable material, no crotch strap, no shopping tray, poor rain-cover and no lock-on swivel wheels.

In March 1990 Maclaren told me that many of these suggestions plus some from the USA had been put into the design programme.

But in a letter last autumn they said they had to prioritise projects "that will help secure the company a future in this difficult economic climate ... At this time, therefore, we cannot guarantee when, or indeed if, we can provide the design refinements suggested".

So, back to square one.

Since Maclaren now refer to themselves as "manufacturers of nursery products and not specialist wheelchairs", why not reject the Major in favour of one of the superior - and more expensive - alternatives, which can be provided (with some reluctance) by the Disablement Services Authority? If enough of us do this, the DSA might join in securing improvements.
Mrs Diane Crichton
Flixton, Manchester

sic

Pantomime time

The panto season may be over but its spirit lives on in demos organised by the Campaign For Accessible Transport (CAT). *DN*'s reporter, leaping to a summons received that very day, arrived at the House of Commons to find himself cast as the villain and greeted with boos and hisses. Further entertainment was provided by CAT's claims that The Spastics Society funds John Major and *DN* campaigns against anti-discrimination legislation. When reporters were told to move away while the cast pondered its next move, a bemused radio reporter was heard to mutter: "When it comes to secrecy, they're even worse than MI5".

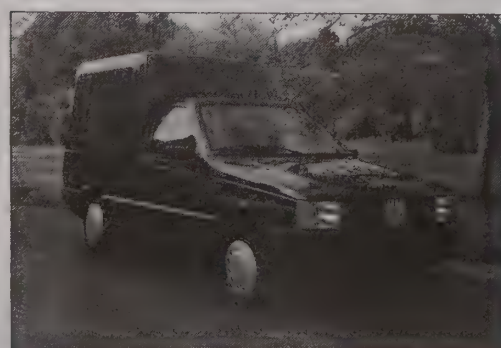
Hospital howlers

If you are going into hospital and want to give the nurses a little thank-you present afterwards, how about a dictionary? Judging by the grammatical gaffes from nurses' exam papers published in the *Nursing Times*, they could do with one:
* "Junior nurses were warned to give nothing sugared, the patient being diabolic."
* "On recovery, the patient became violet and then calmed down."
* "Rose hips are the first sign of bed sores."



**PROBABLY THE BEST VALUE
FOR MONEY AVAILABLE**

**For detailed information or
a no obligation test drive
contact us at either address**



MOTORBILITY FOR ALL

Quality conversions for:

**Wheelchair driver
Wheelchair passenger
Special Needs & Minibuses**



UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD

**JORDANS, PARTRIDGE LANE
RUSPER, SUSSEX, RH12 4RW
Tel: 0293 871019 Fax: 0293 871007**

or

**UNIT G, ROYD MILL
DYEHOUSE LANE, BRIGHOUSE
WEST YORKS, HD6 1LL
Tel: 0484 400795 Fax: 0484 400796**

Disability doesn't mean you have to hang up the gardening gloves, as Mary Curran reports from deepest, lushest Newcastle upon Tyne

After I became disabled and started to use a wheelchair I thought my gardening days were over. Then, when my husband dug up the marigolds in the mistaken opinion that they were weeds, I knew it was time to get back out there.

Being a disabled gardener requires a little imagination. Most of my ideas come from older folk, magazines, the wireless, and flashes of genius.

For example, I have a round plastic table (the kind that holds a parasol) which is just the right height for "potting on" seedlings.

I use a three-tray vegetable rack with wheels to hold my seed containers, which I can keep indoors with me till the warmer weather (giving me a head start on my more able neighbours). After it goes outside, it can be lifted inside the greenhouse when there is a danger of night frosts.

We have a greenhouse but I can't get into it - access is not within our price range and it isn't really big enough - so I sit outside and hand things through to my husband. He's a very good labourer!

I sit out of my chair on a

MARY'S TIPS FOR ALL SEASONS

* **Winter** - lift eyelids, look out, agree with spouse that it's too cold and turn up fire. Peruse seed catalogue and debate what to invest in (Suttons send seeds post free).

* **Spring** - plant seeds in one litre ice cream containers, plastic egg boxes or cream cake containers (empty first). Hide containers behind curtains or put into vegetable rack. Plant on sweet peas into polystyrene coffee cups, dispatch to greenhouse or cover with a frame. Watch with joy as bulbs brave the cold to break through.

* **Summer** - compliment plants daily and insult weeds from sun lounger. Plant out successful efforts. Swap half my sweet peas for tomato plants with war veteran Bob. Put geraniums into planters for patio and do hanging baskets.

* **Autumn** - take cuttings, supervise clearing of garden, cut back plants, split annuals, plant greens. Put planters in greenhouse over winter. Hibernate.

The green goddess

cushion to plant out - earning me the nickname "bum gardener". Passers-by are amazed to hear a cheery voice ringing out over the hedge with no-one in sight.

My husband made me a "bogey" once, which we

People often think their gardens are full when they're not. Even if your plot is small, you can enlarge the growing area by stapling some netting (try an old onion bag) inside a fence and growing sweet peas, climbing roses or jasmine up

hostas, delphiniums, roses, pansies, hollyhocks, clematis, jasmine, and fuschias.

As well as the great pleasure I get from my garden, it's nice to send visitors away with a bunch of roses or some salad, or cheer up someone who's ill.



Mary Curran: "Being a disabled gardener requires a little imagination."

thought was a very good idea until we found out the path was slanted and we were travelling a little quicker than we intended. We use it now to transport things around.

If you can't reach or bend too far, hanging baskets are a very good idea that you can do on your knee. And if you can't haul the baskets on to your chair to water them, throw ice cubes into them instead.

it. Then, if you are having a "bad" day, you can at least see some colour from inside.

We made a few changes to the garden to accommodate my disability. The council widened the paths so I could get on to them from the back door ramp, and the beds were narrowed so I can reach them from the path or lawn.

Our garden has a wide variety of plants, including

There's also the family - two daughters, a son, and five beloved grandchildren - to supply. (When I was chairman of the local Disablement Income Group, I even presented Mrs Thatcher with some shamrocks.)

Some plants are easy to grow from. With marigolds, for example, just save the seeds and plant them up in spring. When it comes to

Tote those seed trays and cut that grass - the annual DN gardening hoe-down is here again!

p15 Mary Curran's gardening tips

p16-17 Gardens with a difference

p18 Green havens to visit. Win a £499 prize

p19 Green-fingered jobs and courses

pansies, buy the best you can. Once they spread out they can be split, or you can grow more from seed. Busy Lizzies are friendly pot plants: pop the cuttings into a glass of water and watch the roots grow. To take cuttings from Begonias, gently break off the side shoots and pop them into a pot.

Not all my efforts are successful. Sometimes, I think I must have a garden in Australia because some seeds are just never seen again. My husband once planted some plastic flowers up the path when mine "pegged out".

I haven't any special tools, just a long-handled trowel to clobber the weeds, and a "howker" as it's called here (posh folk would call it a dandelion extractor).

But of all these, the biggest aid is my patient husband whose vegetable plot seems to get smaller every year as my flower patches get bigger!

Alvema 200 - quite simply the best



The new 200 has everything that makes Alvema the very best in luxury pushchairs.

A tough transporter that will allow you to go on long walks together providing good seating and comfort for your child and with a balance and control that makes walking a pleasure, not a chore.

The Alvema 200 has a smart, stylish new livery, it's lighter, easier to fold; has a foot-operated drum brake and new colour co-ordinated accessories. Should your child need a nap, the back has extra recline, and no matter if it's sunny, raining or cold, there's a choice of weather gear to keep your child protected.

If you want that well-known Swedish combination of style and practicality it has to be Alvema 200 - 4 sizes for infants to young teenagers.

Alvema 200 - don't settle for second best!



Unit 15, 7 Airfield Road,
Christchurch,
Dorset BH23 3TQ.
Tel: 0202
481818.

Please call for demonstration or assessment.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

DN 3/92



Peperomia magnoliaefolia "Jeli"

PRACTICAL GARDENING

Leaving the conventional one lawn, two herbaceous borders and three flower beds behind, you can get a lot of pleasure from gardening with a difference. For disabled gardeners, "doing your own thing" can bridge the gap between what you'd like to do and what you can do.

Why not bring the outdoors indoors with a miniature garden, terrarium or dried flowers, as recommended in *Gardening is for Everyone*, by Audrey Cloet and Chris Underhill.*

A deep dish is needed to start with (try a roasting dish). If the container has no drainage holes, put a layer of pebbles or charcoal in the bottom. Fill the container with compost to within an inch of the rim. If you don't want a flat aspect, create some hills.

Next, use a dibber or spoon to dig holes. Gently transfer your small plants into the holes, nudge the compost around them, firming them into place.

Miniature gardens need small plants, such as conifers, miniature roses, mosses and small ferns, miniature bulbs, or saxifrage (cushion type). Keep the garden interesting by varying the heights, textures and colours, while keeping it all in proportion.

Once the plants are in, it doesn't have to stop there. You can make paths from small gravel, put a mirror in to suggest a pond, or place accessories like bridges (from aquarium shops) to add interest.

Just as in full-size gardens, it's worth planning on paper first. You don't have to put all your good ideas in the one seed tray - the beauty of miniature gardens is that you can have as many as you like.

After creation, water when dry (a daily mist spray will also prevent the plants drying out).

Try a terrarium

If you're still wondering what to do with all those big sweet jars you carefully emptied over Christmas, how about making a terrarium from them?

Terrariums, or "bottle gardens" don't have to be made from bottles. Anything which has transparent sides and a restricted neck (or an opening which can be covered with a sheet of glass or plastic, for example a fish tank) will do. The idea is to protect the delicate plants inside from dry

air and draughts.

Before you start, measure

out enough compost to fill the jar and wet it.

Lay the jar on its side, and put a layer of charcoal on the bottom. Put a layer of compost in, to a quarter of the depth of the jar (shake the jar about to get a true level).

Again, make some mounds and create the planting holes.

You'll need a long dibber or spoon to garden in a terrarium. Knickerbocker Glory spoons are handy, but you can improvise by tying a teaspoon to a stick.

After gently firming the plants in, add some pebbles for interest. Wipe the sides of the jar clean and put on the lid.

Put your terrarium in good but indirect light (not on a sunny window sill). Because the plants are in a sealed container, they create their own moisture and shouldn't need watering. If misting occurs during the first week when the plants are settling in, remove the lid, let the mist clear, and replace it.

Some plants do well in a terrarium

Wot, no lawns

THE NO DEPOSIT AX Debut



NO DEPOSIT OR LOW DEPOSIT.

While other people are just thinking about buying a new car, you can be out and about driving a brand new Citroën.

Drive away a class-beating AX Debut, for example, without paying a penny deposit. Or take advantage of Citroën's low deposit offer on the highly acclaimed ZXReflex.

Both cars offer an unparalleled combination of space and comfort, lively performance and reliability, along with levels of equipment

and refinements that are simply unbeatable. And with excellent fuel consumption, both cars are models of economy into the bargain.

The New Generation AX was launched last year and includes a diesel version which the Guinness Book of Records proclaims as the most fuel efficient car in the world.

The Citroën ZX, available as either petrol or diesel, has been greeted with rapturous applause. 'The best handling, best riding hatchback you

can buy,' said What Car? (Nov. '91) And according to Auto Express (Jan. 28 '92), 'the refined ZXReflex, backed by Citroën's low service and repair bills, is our overall best-value buy.'

Send now for details of Citroën's generous no deposit and low deposit offers, along with information on all the extra financial benefits of acquiring your AX or ZX under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

It won't be long before you're driving away in a brand new Citroën.

CITROËN

CARS FEATURED AX DEBUT £5,895, ZX REFLEX 1.4 £8,770. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT BUT EXCLUDE ADDITIONAL ON

or borders?

ile others are non-starters. Try all leaved ivys, ferns, peperomia, ifraga sarmentosa (mother of thousands) or pilea. Avoid cacti or culents and flowering plants.

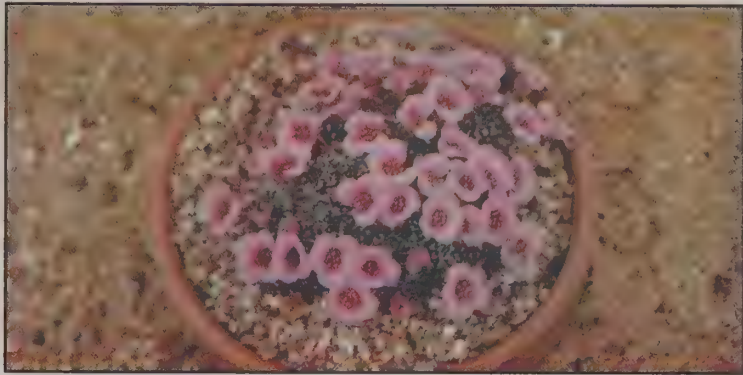
ied flowers

you're still not convinced of the tues of having the real live green ff sprouting in your home, you

could try dried flowers or - dare we say it - ARTIFICIAL PLANTS!

Dried flowers are an easy way to dot colour around your room. Available in most large department stores or gardening centres, there are now enough varieties to indulge the most creative instincts.

Try a basic "fan shape" arrangement, with the tallest flowers in the centre, spreading out to each side, and the shortest ones in the middle at the front. Vary the colours and textures as you go. Dried flowers come in all colours now, so you should be able to co-ordinate the arrangement



Saxifraga Winifred

PRACTICAL GARDENING

with your room.

If you don't have a vase,

any other container, such as jars, tins or baskets will do. If you don't want the container to be seen, you could arrange the dried flowers in Oasis (foam), available from florists' shops or garden centres. Again, start with the tallest flower in the centre, working out. To hide the container, "sprout" trailing or bushy flowers out from the sides and top edges of the Oasis.

Make your own flowers

"Artificial" is a bit of a dirty word where most gardeners are concerned. If you want some colour in your home but can't keep up the maintenance because of your disability, artificial plants or flowers are ideal.

You can buy plastic and silk flowers in the shops, or try your hand at making your own if the shop-bought ones are too expensive. You'll need some coloured crêpe paper from arts and crafts shops or stationers, wax, an old pot, and florists' wire.

Cut the crepe paper into two inch strips to make shapes from. Roll each strip, bunching one next to the other to form a round "flower head". You can have solid rose-shaped petals or cut nicks in the top to make a carnation effect.

When you've made the flower head, wrap a piece of florists' wire around the bottom to secure it, and attach it to a longer piece of wire which will be the stem.

Meanwhile, melt some wax in an old pot that you don't use for cooking any more. Holding the flower carefully by the wire stem, dip it quickly into the wax, just enough for a thin coating (no need to immerse it). Let the flower cool.

Wrap some green crêpe paper round the stem as a finishing touch, and arrange the flowers in a vase.

After all your energy and initiative has been exhausted by gardening with a difference, you can sit back, gaze out at the conventional gardeners battling with the elements outside, and give them a cheery wave with your newly acquired green fingers. Welcome to the gardeners' world.

* *Gardening is for Everyone*, by Audrey Cloet and Chris Underhill, Souvenir Press Limited, £6.95 paperback, £12.95 hardback.

THE LOW DEPOSIT ZX Reflex



DRIVE AWAY A CITROËN NOW!



CITROËN

To: The Fleet Motability Coordinator,
Citroën UK Ltd, 221 Bath Road, Slough
SL1 4BA.

Please send me information on the AX
and ZX, as well as details of the
Motability Contract Hire Scheme and
your 'no deposit/low deposit' offers.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Taking a trip to pastures new

If you aren't able to put some of your more fantastic gardening ideas into practice, or are just looking for a good day out, visiting other people's gardens could be the answer. Here is a brief selection of ideas:

*The National Trust publishes an information guide for visitors with disabilities to accompany its handbook. The guide is free (please send an SAE), and the handbook costs £3.95 plus £70p p&p from The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS or from any Trust property. Free admission is given to the "necessary companion" of a disabled or visually impaired person.

On 13 May the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland will be offering free entry to selected properties. Supported by



The Dingle, from *Gardens of England and Wales*. JERRY HARPUR

Lloyds Bank, over 200 places will be yours to explore for free, including Inverewe Gardens in Wester Ross and Cragside Gardens in Northumberland. A list of the 200 will be available from 1 April from the



The orchid house at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden in Wisley M SLEIGH, RHS WISLEY

address above (for England, Wales and N. Ireland) or by writing to "Welcome Leaflet", The National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DU (for Scotland). Please enclose a large SAE.

*The Royal Horticultural Society's garden for disabled people at Wisley in Surrey, is

being re-designed and is scheduled to re-open in May. There are still lots of other model gardens within Wisley to visit in the meantime though, and entry is free to people who are registered disabled. Tel: (0483) 224234.

cannot come into the gardens. For Syon Park, contact the Frome office, tel: (0373) 464782. For Battersea, contact Richard Jones or Jerry Gould, tel: 071-720 2212. To visit the Quaker Garden Horticultural Project in Bunhill, contact



Lanhydrock, Cornwall DAVID HASTILOW/NATIONAL TRUST

open to the public for a small fee. Access symbols used where applicable.

Gardens of England and Wales, £2 from booksellers or £2.75 from The National Gardens Scheme, Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7RT. *Scotland's Gardens* costs £2 in booksellers or direct from Scotland's Gardens Scheme, 31 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL (£2.50 by post).

*Mary Marlborough Lodge in Oxford has a demonstration garden for disabled people and gives expert advice and assistance. Part of Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, you must be referred by your GP or other professional who should write to David Hollinrake, Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford, OX3 7LD.

I'm an OK kid.



The Kelly is a good looking, lightweight, foldable buggy for children with mild-to-moderate physical disabilities. This versatile buggy provides effective positioning and support without sacrificing comfort or appearance. Kids will love the "with-it" look and smooth ride. Parents will love the convenience. With its 6" front swivel castors and 8" rear wheels, it is easy to push and folds in seconds. The Kelly accommodates a variety of sizes of seating systems that can be changed as the child grows.

Send this coupon off today for more information.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Ortho Kinetics (UK) Ltd., Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV13 3XA. Telephone: 0902 866166

DN Gardening Competition

Win a Floronde worth £499!

The Inva-Dex Floronde is a garden designed for easy access either indoors or outside for those who love gardening but may be hampered by limited mobility.

The Floronde has over two and an half square metres of growing space and comes in two sizes - 800mm or 900mm high - surrounded by a high-sided rolling edge and supported by a sturdy base which can be bolted down. Drainage is via an outlet in the base. A self-watering "fountain" can be added.

To enter the competition, find up to 13 words connected with gardens or gardening hidden in the word square (right). The word "Floronde" has been marked to give you an example. You may find words that are spaced horizontally, vertically or diagonally and which read left to right or downwards. Two word combinations such as flower bed are also included.

After the puzzle, complete the following tie-breaker:

"I would like to win a Floronde because"

and send your list of words and your name and address to Inva-Dex Ltd, 66-68 Manchester Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 6AZ.

Closing date: 20 March 1992



O	F	L	O	R	O	N	D	E	B	M	R
C	O	M	P	O	S	T	A	Y	P	D	O
E	R	G	H	P	P	X	P	L	L	I	S
T	U	A	R	K	A	O	F	A	A	R	E
R	N	P	L	E	D	C	Q	W	N	W	S
O	G	W	A	S	E	E	D	I	T	S	N
C	P	A	T	I	O	N	F	O	P	K	Y
K	H	E	I	F	I	S	H	P	O	N	D
E	C	Z	A	B	U	T	K	O	T	E	P
R	L	U	N	T	C	V	B	L	U	R	I
Y	H	O	S	E	P	I	P	E	W	S	G
J	E	F	M	C	A	Y	L	G	H	O	E

Get paid for your passion

difficulties, a pre-NVQ curriculum and assessment is also available.

You can live in or out; the course includes work experience either within the Thorngrove Centre or with local employers, and job-hunting advice is included.

The next intake of trainees starts on 27 April, but you can approach Thorngrove any

*Horticultural Therapy and Coventry Polytechnic are launching a unique professional development diploma in therapeutic horticulture.

Run in association with Moulton College and Henry Doubleday Research Association, the course is aimed at people who have already reached an appropriate level of expertise in either horticulture, occupational therapy or a related profession.

Based in Coventry, the course will be run on a day

release basis for 30 weeks. It costs £252 and starts on 28 April. For more details please write to Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW, tel: (0373) 64782.

**Growth Point*, Horticultural Therapy's magazine, will have a special article on jobs the Spring edition, published in March. Magazine available for £10 a year, or factsheet can be bought separately for 70p to members, or 85p to non-members, from address above.



Tray jolies: Thorngrove instructor Bob Cook

Indulging your passion for the green stuff in return for some of the folding stuff might be your idea of a dream come true. Here are some of the new job and course opportunities on offer:

*Jane Sullivan (*right*) is on a new floristry course at Clarendon College in Nottingham. Ms Sullivan, who is blind, is studying for her National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) levels 1, 2 and 3 and hopes to set up her own business.

The floristry one year option course, which lasts for 30 weeks, gives you a level 1 NVQ. After that, you have the chance to take levels 2 and 3.

With its flexible hours, the course is specially geared to appeal to mature students and women returners. It includes basic wedding and sympathy items, bouquets, and dealing with customers.

The next one starts in September, and costs £160 (local education authority grants available, according to personal circumstances). For more details contact Linda Kiddey, tel: (0602) 607201.

*The Thorngrove Centre in Dorset offers training to people who want to work in commercial horticulture, garden centres or agriculture.

Run by The Spastics Society, the course is for

people over 18 who have cerebral palsy or other disabilities, and who are independently mobile.



Flower power: Jane Sullivan and tutor Hilary Franklin

Training and assessment is done to NVQ level 1. For people with moderate learning

time. Contact Chris Allen, tel: (0747) 822242 as soon as possible.

INVA-DEX
Innovative Care Products

Take the "Circus"
out of bathing

For FREE Catalogue telephone: 0298-816366
or write to:
INVA-DEX
66-68 Manchester Road, Chapel en le Frith
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 6RZ

**THE
NATIONAL
TRUST
WELCOMES
DISABLED
VISITORS**

1992 is National Trust Landscape Year. Many of the Trust's landscape parks and gardens have excellent access for wheelchair users, and at some, accessibility is further improved by the provision of volunteer-driven buggies, battery-powered self-drive cars, or three-wheeler scooters. These include landscape parks such as Sheringham in Norfolk, and gardens like Barrington Court in Somerset.

There is no charge for the use of these vehicles, which give independence and enjoyment to many people who can then tour a Trust property beside their companions!

There is a list of properties offering these vehicles and further details are given in a free annual 48 page booklet of information for visitors with disabilities, sponsored by Fisons plc. Please send a stamped self-addressed adhesive label (minimum postage) to:

Valerie Wenham,
Dept DN, The National Trust,
36 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1H 9AS.

Walkabouts by Metco

Extra mobility for around £100!

Walkabouts keep you mobile and active. They have wheels, directional control, brakes and baskets.

The Sit-Down Walkabout has a handy seat. They fold flat for transport and delivery is included in the price.

POST OUR COUPON TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Send to: METCO WALKABOUTS, FREEPOST BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM NG9 1BR No stamp required.

Tel: (0602) 255488.

DN3/92



**Extra mobility for
around £100!**

EXHIBITION

BP re-Vision

The Greenwich Citizens Gallery has surpassed itself with its latest exciting and surprising exhibition. At BP re-Vision, you can touch, hear, smell and see the exhibits.

The work was specially commissioned and uses a wide and unusual variety of materials to engage and provoke the senses.

The catalogue is in large, clear print, interlaced with braille text (the first of its kind?) with a splendid essay by sculptor and *DN* art critic Adam Reynolds on the disability arts movement.

In two parts, the exhibition features a variety of artists (18 January-22 February, and 6 March-11 April), and will be going on tour for two years.

I visited the first part and was immediately captivated by the giant-sized "Tables of Content", four huge chairs and a table plus an enormous coat and dress.

Each piece of furniture was covered in sawdust, straw, rice or feathers. The chairs had drawers full of surprises for the fingers, ears and sense of smell, and the ceiling of the table was set with a colourful mosaic of cookies made from baker's clay.

All this was executed by a talented collective of young artists calling themselves apc.

A change in mood was provided by Joanna Mowbray's sculpture, "Shoots". Its beautifully rising forms, looking as if they had sprung from the floor, were very tactile and made you want to

embrace them. These were complimented by her four large drawings, bold and stark on the wall behind.

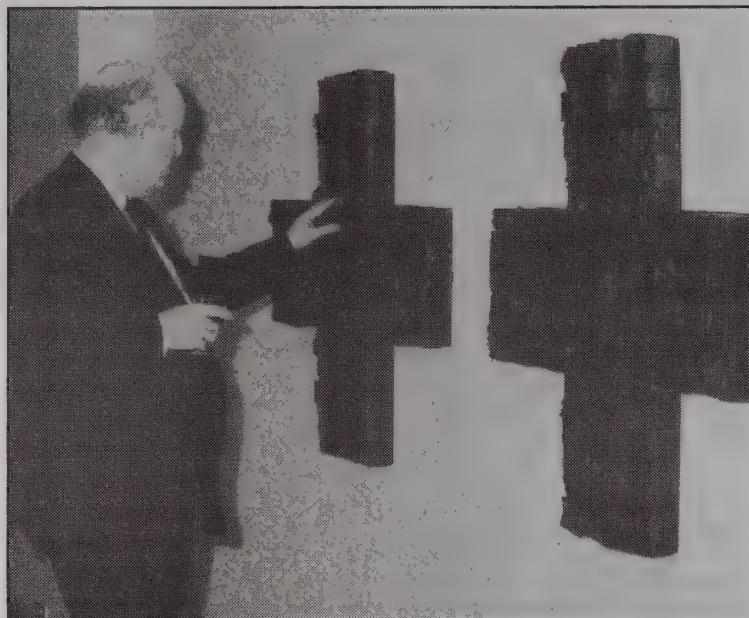
You could experience a different "touching" in the works of Lois Williams who uses natural materials, often in their raw state.

"From Within" used mainly fleece from Jacob sheep. It was three cross-shaped pieces on the wall, divided into small compartments, each holding different depths of feeling as the wool changed texture from soft to smooth, then rough or wiry. Quite compulsive to explore once you start to

with household objects. Each was bound with skein wool, making it confusing - and great fun - to identify.

Exploring the two large wall panels by Flavio Titolo provided immense satisfaction to the eyes and adventure to the fingertips. The panels were cast in plaster from lino-cuts, "Eva 1" and "Eva 2". This talented sculptor is a blind student, currently taking his BA in Fine Arts at Bristol Polytechnic.

Would you expect to find an exhibit made from caramel? It's surprising how attractive and rich it can look. The



"From Within" by Lois Williams

recognise the meaning of touch.

The theme continued in "Hearth" (also by Lois Williams), which was a curved wool rug on the floor, strewn

artist, Yvette Thelermont, says she has an obsession with caramel and its transformation from one physical state to another. The huge slab "Untitled", set in a heavy



Members of apc with their work "Tables of Content"

frame, stood on its own, grand and inviting. There was a faint smell of toffee, and the sensuous lines formed by the substance running downwards were intricate. Due to the temperature in the Gallery, the caramel slowly changed its daily appearance, forming pools and patterns underneath.

The second half of this exhibition looks just as adventurous and engaging. Not to be missed by those who welcome a challenge and enjoy exhibitions that are witty and full of participation.

Contact Barbara Hunt, tel: 081-316 2752.

*The charity preview of Art 92, the London Contemporary Art Fair, (23-26 January) was in aid of the RNIB Looking Glass appeal.

Works from two fine artists with a visual impairment - Jonathan Huxley and Jennifer Maskell-Packer - were shown.

For the first time, touch tours were allowed on all days (provided by the RNIB). The two guides, Sally Booth and myself, were kept very busy as escorts and on enquiries.

The exhibiting galleries were very interested and helpful, giving us every support and courtesy.

Gioya Steinke

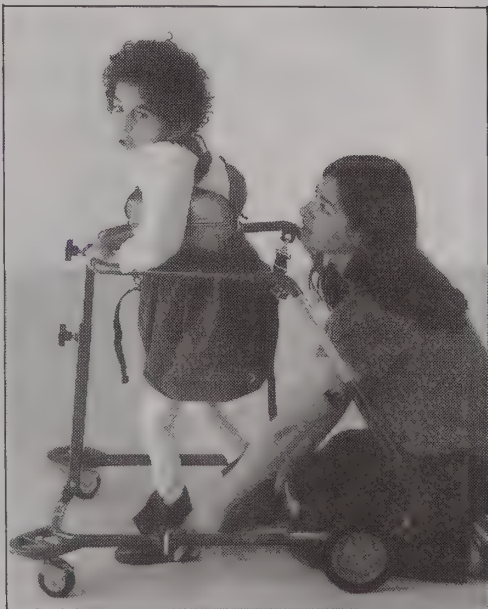
For ALL who

NEED TO WALK

★ Secure Positioning

★ Maximum Freedom

★ Stimulates Movement



Rifton
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

FRONT-LEANING
GAIT TRAINER

Full colour brochure:
RIFTON, Dept. DN, ROBERTSBRIDGE, E. SUSSEX TN32 5DR. Tel: (0580) 880626



* IMPORTANT NOTICE *

FEENY & JOHNSON LTD

has now been purchased by

STEERING DEVELOPMENTS GROUP LTD

and has been re-located to a new factory in

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

the same range of high quality and reliable hand control systems, steering knobs and vacuum braking systems are now available from our extensive range of products

Telephone 0442 60715

Fax 0442 240254



FEENEY & JOHNSON LTD

Unit 3, Eastman Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7HF, England.

Tel: 0442 60715

Fax: 0442 240254

Please send us a brochure to:

NAME

ADDRESS

.....TEL NO.

VIDEO

1. ROBIN HOOD, PRINCE OF THIEVES (WARNER). Kevin Costner swaps the wild west for Sherwood Forest and more fancy dress.

2. MERMAID (RCA). Cher fools the cheeky Bob Hoskins in a fantasy romance.

3. HUDSON HAWK (20-20). Bruce Willis is "HH" in expensive megaflop.

4. NAKED GUN 2 AND A HALF (CIC). More mad-cap spoofing from the *Airplane* stable.

5. CLASS ACTION (FOX). Legal pro's father and daughter clash in court drama.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart: The Video Palace

THEATRE

Hound cocks a leg on charity

Hound is billed as "the first ever professional play to be performed by blind people and written by a writer who is herself blind". Raina Haig talks to playwright Maria Oshodi

"It's all to do with power," says Maria Oshodi about her new play *Hound*, which opened to an enthusiastic reception at London's Oval House last month. It is Graeae Theatre Company's first national touring production for three years.

The play begins in a tv studio during a live "charitython". A blind man, Joe (Dave Kent), appeals to the nation on behalf of charities such as the one that gave him his dog Wonder - and slips in a quick plug for the bank he works for. The scene sets up the play's major theme: the charity model and how this is perpetuated not just by the charities themselves but also by the media, and by disabled people like Joe who conform to the role of grateful recipient.

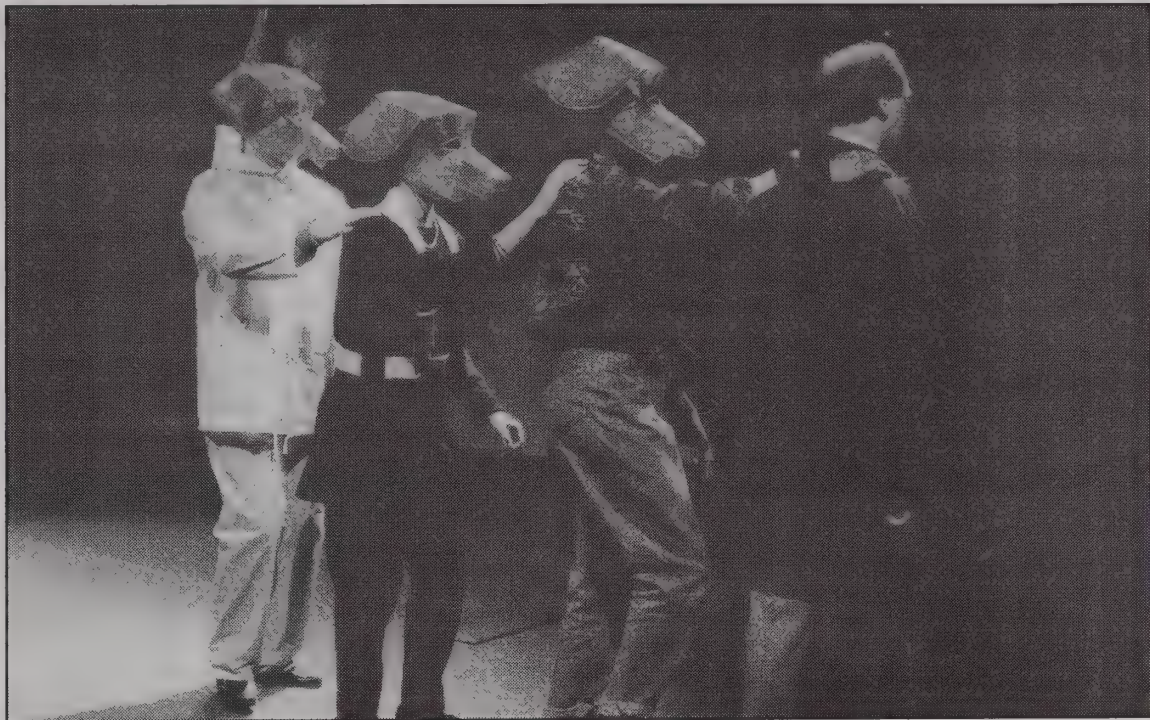
"This play is very much an experiment for me," says Maria. It's the first time she has written about the experience of visual impairment and the first time she has worked with a disabled theatre company. It is also, she says, the most "political" play she has written.

The rest of the play is set in

vividly painted monologues. The "Hound" becomes a metaphor for the blind handler - and even for the instructor - trained to obey the rules and regulations of the charity model. "This just isn't fair on

there's still the distraction of performers struggling with lines, and the whole show - bar the final scene - feels underpaced. Both Oshodi and Graeae point out the continuing lack of training and

focus on training in the coming months. "That's what's wanted," says Maria, and feeling she's risking her neck, adds, "we need to be able to sort out the shit from the gold. Not everyone who



"This play is very much an experiment for me," says Maria Oshodi of her new work.

you," one of the trainees, Desiree (Kate Portal) says to her dog, "harnessed up with all your dignity and freedom gone".

Like their dogs, the handlers have no say: along with whistles, harnesses and fluorescent clothing comes the command to obey the system. Two of the trainees, Aysha (Marvel Opara) and Desiree, find a means of rebellion by refusing to appear in the documentary.

The programme, it becomes clear, is heavily slanted in the charity's favour. Using Nazma (Veronique Christie), the Asian assistant producer, Oshodi explores the problem of one marginalised group's potential oppression of another. David Bowen as Vince, the lascivious instructor, chillingly conveys undertones of sexual power play as he carries out his job.

But *Hound* goes beyond exploring issues of institutional oppression. Desiree and Aysha reveal feelings of powerlessness and need which may appear to contradict the position of strength they otherwise adopt. In dealing with this paradox, Oshodi expresses vulnerabilities in her characters which are in danger of becoming taboo in disability culture. In theatre which is by disabled people, for disabled people, we should now be able to feel secure enough to explore issues of vulnerability as well as strength.

Oshodi's script has been given a somewhat bland production by director Ewan Marshall. It's early days, but

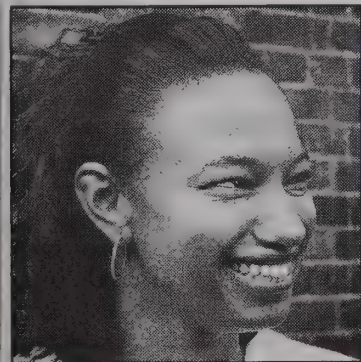
employment opportunities for disabled people in the theatre. Lack of choice, says Maria, led to compromises in casting the play (although she feels the cast is shaping up well). "You have to work for the excellent. You can't accept the mediocre. Otherwise, you'll be seen that way."

Graeae promises a greater

has a disability who wants to get involved in the arts professionally is going to have that ability".

The debate about standards aside, it's definitely worth harnessing *Hound* when it cocks a leg in your area during the next four months.

Tour dates, tel: 071-383 7541.



Maria Oshodi

a "Seeing Eye Dogs Association" (SEDA) training centre. "Three blind clients" undergo a three week course in dog handling, during which a local tv company shoots a documentary about the centre's work.

Oshodi's writing is pacy and colourful, ranging from punchy, sharply observed comic exchanges to surreal,

Look out for

More Mileage: Car Design for Elderly and Disabled People. Till 17 May. Design Museum, London. Tel: 071-403 6933.

Common Ground sign dance theatre company on tour till 16 April. Tel: 081-575 1078. "Remarkable, enterprising and inventive" - review next month.

Disability Week on Channel 4. 22-29 March. Films, new series, documentaries.

TV

I have mixed feelings about the three-part serial

Goodbye Cruel World (BBC2,

January), yet another drama showing the difficulties which often accompany acquired disability.

Using this device enables a non-disabled person to play the part, emphasises tragedy and trauma, and fosters a stereotypical view of disabled people and their families.

But, having said this, the main character who became disabled was not bitter, was very strong, and maintained as much control over her life as possible, even right up to her death.

A second strand to the story showed unscrupulous charity professionals who capitalised on disability to pull heartstrings and raise money. Just as it seemed that these ruthless manipulators were about to be exposed, the serial bottled out. What a wasted opportunity. The story had a lot of clout - shame it had to pull its punch.

The Count of Solar (BBC2, 2 February) hardly pulled any punches. The title character, a young, deaf, disinherited aristocrat (admirably played by Tyron Woolfe, himself deaf), is taught sign language by one of the founders of sign, the Abbé de L'Épée.

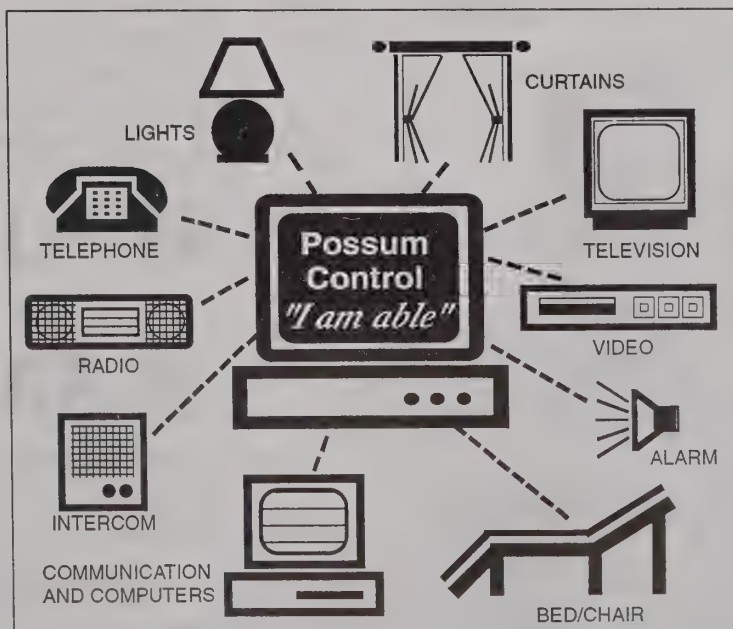
For the first time in any drama I've seen, whole scenes were acted solely in sign language. Sensibly and rightly, these scenes also had subtitles so that they were equally accessible to deaf and hearing people.

But elsewhere in the play the deaf audience was treated less fairly: when speech was used to accompany sign language, camera angles made the signing unintelligible. Much as I want to encourage more plays like this, why did it have to ignore the needs of the very community without whom the script could never have been written?

Advice Shop (BBC2, 23 January) carried an excellent special report by Jane Campbell about the disability movement. Even though it was beginners' stuff to people close to the subject, it provided a much needed oasis of good practice for the average viewer.

Insomniacs and video owners will know about **The Way Ahead** (BBC Select, January onwards), which aims to encourage disabled people to claim new government benefits. But are disabled people likely to own video recorders or to be awake at 2am?

Chris Davies



Home control - for your security and independence. Possum supply equipment that enables a disabled person, with any controlled movement, to access facilities within their home environment. This gives greater independence and an improved quality of life.

Wholly owned by two Charities, Possum have been helping the disabled for over 30 years.

possum
Possum Controls Limited

DN/01/03

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please send further details of how Possum can improve the quality of life for myself/parent/child/friend. **Possum Controls Ltd** Middlegreen Road, Langley, Slough, SL3 6DF. Telephone: 0753 579234. Fax: 0753 512840

BOOKS

Disabled People in Britain and Discrimination

by Colin Barnes
(C Hurst and Co, £9.95 pb, £18 hb)

When President Bush signed the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, which attacks discrimination against disabled people and seeks to remove institutional barriers, he said: "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

A number of countries have legislation which recognises that discrimination exists against disabled people, and attempts to address the problem. Britain, on the other hand, has, until very recently, failed to accept that institutionalised discrimination exists, and successive governments have refused to support attempts to introduce anti-discrimination legislation of any kind.

We've always known that discrimination against disabled people is endemic in British society. Those of us who have lived most, or all, of our lives with disability have enough first hand experience of it in our everyday lives not to need a book to tell us that it exists.

But political parties keep telling us that we are imagining things and that there is no need for legislation, just education, persuasion and voluntary action. Explain the problems to people and everything will work out fine, so long as we are not too



One Step at a Time, by Margaret Slade, describes the integration of the first disabled pupils into a comprehensive school in Clywd, North Wales. Set in the days before the 1981 Education Act encouraged other local education authorities to do likewise, the book is aimed at parents and professionals alike. Maysdale Books, 63 Ffordd Glyn, Coed Y Glyn, Wrexham, Clywd LL13 7QW. £3.95.

aggressive about things. That way, we lose goodwill; we lose the sympathy of the public.

This excellent book, written by Colin Barnes for the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP), proves the case for anti-discrimination legislation. Chapter by chapter, it goes through every aspect of life, from education and employment to leisure and

political expression, taking in vital areas such as the disability benefits system along the way.

It paints a grim picture. Colin Barnes' approach is factual and scholarly: the book is short on emotion and rhetoric, and high on logic and sound research. The result is no easy read, but the case it makes is all the more compelling because of that.

This is one of the most important books I have read on disability issues.

Congratulations to Colin Barnes and the BCODP. It is comforting to know that I do not have a persecution complex.

Glynn Vernon

Get Into Shape After Childbirth

by Gillian Fletcher
(Ebury Press, £7.99)

The National Childbirth Trust, Britain's major pre- and post-natal organisation, has come to the rescue of new mothers with the only comprehensive "recovery" programme available.

Get Into Shape After Childbirth is a fully illustrated, step-by-step guide to regaining your figure, strength and energy. Gillian Fletcher, an obstetric physiotherapist, has devised an exercise plan paying particular attention to the muscles most affected by pregnancy and childbirth.

Unlike most books about pregnancy, this one has a chapter for mothers with a disability. She admits that "it is very difficult to provide specific information on all disabilities and how they may affect your life as a mother", but there are some helpful suggestions from mothers with a disability based on what they found useful.

Ms Fletcher advises you to make allowances, and ask for and accept all offers of help. This was what I found difficult as I tried to be the picture-book image of a perfect mother, able to do anything that any other mother could.

A lot of extra stress may be

caused by a lack of information or resources and the attitudes and actions of people you come into contact with, argues Ms Fletcher. This is true: much of the time you are the only person who knows and understands your real needs. People were amazed at my capabilities because I found ways around problems that other people had never even contemplated. Gillian Fletcher offers help by saying: "Just remember that you know best what you can and cannot manage, as you are used to coping with day-to-day restrictions that your disability causes".

I found this a very encouraging and well-researched book which would be valuable for any disabled mother to read. I only wish it had been around when I was pregnant.

Isobel Ward

Places That Care

by Michael Yarrow
(£4.99 plus £1 p&hp, tel: 0202 671545)

Places That Care has two objectives: to inform people of places to visit where care has been taken to provide for the needs of disabled people; and to raise money, through its sale, for charities.

To achieve the second aim, Michael Yarrow has also incorporated some advertising. This doesn't detract from his other objective, as most of it relates to elderly or disabled people and has been chosen to draw attention to other useful information.

This guide will be of value to anyone who likes to go on trips, visit places of historic interest, museums or nature reserves, but feels in need of information about their accessibility and suitability.

Entries have been divided into counties and regions, but there appears to have been little or no consideration given to further organising the information alphabetically or by type of venue.

Each entry provides a brief but sufficient description of what there is to do and see, supported by symbols to indicate the availability or otherwise of facilities and services. There are fewer than 50 symbols, many of which are similar and so small that it is difficult to differentiate between them. This makes the checking process extremely tedious and spoils your appreciation of the book.

Symbol descriptions are listed several times for no apparent reason.

There seems to be little to be gained from the index either: it provides no new information and in such a small guide seems like unnecessary padding.

A lot of helpful information is packed in here - once you crack the symbol code.

Ron Wheal

Wheelchair and Scooter Users...

Keep Warm. Keep Dry.
Clothing to protect you from
the wind, rain and cold.

Send for our free colour brochure:

Fish Special Services, FREEPOST, PRESTON, PR2 2BR
Tel. (0772) 724442 Fax. (0772) 733773

Please send me your outdoor clothing brochure

Full Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

NEW for 1992 ACCESS TRAVEL HOLIDAYS for the DISABLED

Majorca - Cote d'Azur

Tenerife - Amsterdam

Florida - Israel

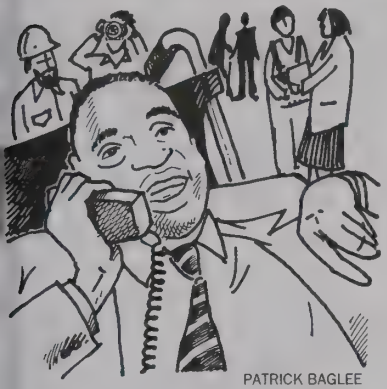
Paralympics 1992 in Barcelona

FULL COLOUR BROCHURE

Please send Brochure to

A

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd. DN3
16 Haweswater Ave Astley Lancs M29 7BL
Telephone 0942 891811



PATRICK BAGLEE

The clock-watcher who loves his job

Careers (3): When disability forced John McLaren to give up his job as a mechanic, the future looked bleak. Now he's having the time of his life in a new career mending clocks and watches

re-training for people with special needs*.

The course was "live-in" so I had no problem finding somewhere to stay. There are bar and shop facilities and medical staff on duty 24 hours a day. You are looked after exceptionally well - so well, in fact, that I put on two and a half stone, but I did stop smoking with the help of a class at the college too. As well as my invalidity benefit and £10 a week training allowance, all my living expenses were met by a Government grant.

Every two weeks I went home to Morayshire for a weekend with my wife Alison and son Jamie, now 4. Being separated wasn't a problem for us. We believed that things would be so much better once I had re-trained, and we also knew we couldn't go on the way things were, with me switching from job to job.

In June 1990 I left Finchale with a certificate from the British Horological Institute (BHI) and returned home to Scotland. Since there were no clock mending businesses I could apply to for a job, I set up my own - "Chimes".

With £1,000 savings and £40 a week from the Enterprise Allowance scheme for the first year, I took things

machinery which working with clocks entails, rather than doing it all at home.

Running your own business, whether you are disabled or not, has its drawbacks as well

more exercise and get fitter.

Having taken the gamble and retrained, I now have a career which matches my disability. This, in turn, has given me greater confidence in

and hope to be able to give some of their students work experience in the future.

I recommend retraining to anyone who finds themselves in my position. With courage



John McLaren: "Being your own boss, you can start work at 8pm if it suits."

FORRES GAZETTE

as its bonuses. You have to be constantly on the look out for work, and self-initiative and confidence are important.

Some days your disability is worse than on others, but being your own boss means you can start work at 8pm if it suits. When my back is bad, I can sit with a hot pad on it, working on watches (clocks mean more lifting).

When chasing work, the trick is to keep going and try to keep it consistent. I am very lucky that Morayshire seems to have a profusion of old clocks which need restoration and repair. Advertising in the local press has been essential, but the best adverts have come from word of mouth.

So what of the future? As soon as I lose the two and a half stone I gained at Finchale, I will be going in for an operation on my spine. Although I will need complete rest afterwards, the operation should mean that I can take

living with that disability.

Horology is an ideal job for a disabled person because everything you need can be laid out around you. At Finchale, one man who used a wheelchair had a bench and lathe adapted for him.

Finchale gave me a new lease on life, enabling me to retain my self-esteem and encouraging my confidence. I still keep in touch with them

and self-confidence - the qualities that Finchale will enhance - the world of work can be your future.

*Chimes, tel: (0309) 76877.
* Finchale Training College, tel: 091-386 2634. Portland College, Mansfield, tel: (0623) 792141. Queen Elizabeth's College, Leatherhead, tel: (0372) 842204. St Loye's College, Exeter, tel: (0392) 55428.*

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: John McLaren

JOB: Horologist

QUALIFICATIONS: BHI certificate. Army certificate of education. Management course on running garages.

SKILLS: Reasonable hand control. Methodical/maths ability.

fascinated with the mechanisms. It also bore a close resemblance to my previous trade, but on a much smaller scale!

Being back at college was a bit daunting. In my first lecture I thought the tutor was speaking a different language, and some of the work was hard going to start with (the maths component is equivalent to first year university stuff).

But Finchale was such a friendly environment, and the training offered so first class, that I soon settled in. There were all sorts of people on my course: geordies, scousers, southerners and brummies, all with different disabilities. Everyone, whatever their academic ability, was encouraged to learn.

Having opened in 1943, Finchale has decades of experience and dedicated instruction under its belt, and is only one of four colleges in Britain providing residential

slowly, buying only what I needed to do the job and keep the work coming in.

I found a workshop in a converted stable block through a local Enterprise Trust, and a house nearby. It was a boost to have a separate unit to work in and set up all the complex

MOBILITY CAR RENTAL

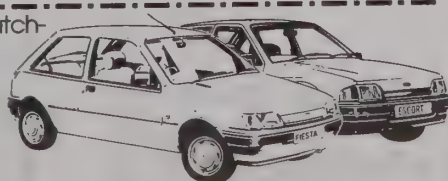
Specialists in self drive car hire for the disabled

- Adapted saloons, hatchbacks, estates. Rear access vehicles and minibuses for wheelchair passengers

- Competitive rates

- 24 hr RAC cover

- Nationwide Delivery and Collection Service



Telephone:

0992 - 87462

We accept Access & Visa



GO AHEAD



YOU Can MAKE it



with

The Mangar Genie!

I WOULD LIKE A FREE BROCHURE ☐ A FREE DEMONSTRATION ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

For further details CONTACT: Mangar Aids Ltd.,
Prestegne Industrial Estate, Prestegne, Powys. LD8 2UF
Tel: No. 0544 267674 Sales Dept.

FACE TO FACE YOU STAND MORE CHANCE!

Share Your Problems

with Ann Darnbrough

Give us the right tools and we'll do the job



Every day of our lives we all use various aids and pieces of equipment. Even those with the strongest hands and fingers would have a rough time taking out a screw without a screwdriver. Although not being very handy about the house, I have learnt that with the right tools I can do more than I thought I could!

A number of readers have mentioned that finding the right aids has made an amazing difference between being independent and having to rely on other people. Not all items of equipment that disabled people find useful are necessarily "disability aids".

One reader, Victor Hancox, echoes the feelings of many other people with disabilities when he says how wonderful microwave cookers are. A number of years ago, he and his wife were setting up home together at the time when microwaves were coming onto the market. The head of the "home" they were leaving got one on loan for them. The trial was a great success and it is still the most satisfactory way for them to cook.

Victor says that because of

athetoid movements, he and his wife have to be very careful about boiling liquids, but nevertheless they can still make a good cup of tea:

"When we set up home, we had a water heating element which we put into a large metal jug. This was hooked onto our work surface. When the water was boiled we just put teabags in. Our milk was put into plastic baby bottles to save breakage - the warden filled the bottles - then we could pour the milk and sugar into the jug and put a drinking straw in. We still use this method, but the water is heated in an urn with a tap over the jug."

Sometimes we can be too "proud" to use aids even though life would be easier if we accepted that we need help.

One reader, who I will call John, says that when his sense of balance became a big problem he spent his time "walking close to walls when getting from one side of a room to the other

because I lost confidence in being able to cross an open space without falling. Had I accepted that a walking stick would help, I could have saved myself two years of what became mental anguish."

As disabled people, if we are to live independently, we may need to use a variety of aids: kitchens and bathrooms in particular can be transformed from alien territory to practical places fit to call home.

But it can be difficult finding out what is available. A social worker or occupational therapist may be able to advise and, if you need a daily living aid, buy it for you.

Alternatively, you may prefer to make your own enquiries. It is well worth visiting a Disabled Living Centre (you can find out the one nearest to you by contacting the Disabled Living Centres Council).

All these centres exhibit a wide variety of aids and equipment which you can try out with the guidance of a qualified person to help and advise. They do not sell any aids, so their recommendations are completely impartial. Disabled Living Centres will also be able to give you lists of manufacturers and distributors of particular aids.

There are also quite a few shops around the country which sell aids, but you need to be careful to ensure that what is on offer really suits your needs. Some suppliers sell aids by mail order. One brochure I received recently

from Chester-care shows a wide variety to use in the home. They are well illustrated and give a good idea of the sort of thing that is available as well as what they cost - from jars and bottle openers to drinking and pouring aids; tools for cutting and cleaning; gardening and leisure implements; wheelchair accessories; mobility aids; foot and shoe accessories; and dressing and grooming devices.

Arthritis Care has launched a free catalogue featuring 75 products specially chosen for people with arthritis, supplied by Keep Able Ltd, which also

guide *Motoring and Mobility for Disabled People* helpful.

John, once he had accepted using a walking stick, expanded his life far more than he could have anticipated:

"I have now purchased a three-wheeled scooter which has, once again, transformed my life. Yes, I still feel embarrassed at times when using it because I haven't had it long, but this will pass and, until it does, it is a very small price to pay. I used to drive my car from A to B and be unable to move about unless my wife was with me, and then only a short distance. Now, I can be far more independent locally and when my wife and I go anywhere I put the scooter in the car and know that I will be mobile when we reach our destination. Once again, like the walking stick, I should have purchased it much earlier."

Please keep sending in your letters to me, c/o DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, and sharing your experiences, those which are painful as well as those where you have overcome problems. Do let me know when you write whether I may use your name.

Disabled Living Centres Council, tel: 071-700 1707. Chester-care, tel: (0623) 757955. Arthritis Care, tel: 071-235 0902. Keep Able Ltd, tel: 081-742 2181. RADAR, tel: 071-637 5400. (Also, Directory of Aids for Disabled and Elderly People, by Ann Darnbrough and Derek Kinrade, Woodhead-Faulkner, £23.50 - Editor.)

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (04024) 77582.

has its own catalogue.

As well as aids around the house, we all need mobility aids of one sort or another, whether it is a walking stick or a car. Public transport is not very user-friendly to many of us so we may need adapted cars, and for local journeys scooter-type vehicles. There is a wide variety of these about and they have proved to be a great boon to those who can use them. Cars and pavement/slow road vehicles must be chosen with great care. It is a huge subject, and you would find the RADAR

BLENHEIM HOUSE

PROVIDING A HIGH STANDARD OF CARE FOR YOUNG PHYSICALLY DISABLED ADULTS WHO CAN CHOOSE VARYING LEVELS OF INDEPENDENT LIVING, WITH THE BENEFIT OF SUPPORT SERVICES.



BLENHEIM HOUSE NURSING HOME

24 hour nursing care with all bedrooms having en suite toilet.

BLENHEIM HOUSE RESIDENTIAL FLATS

Self-contained flats, single and shared residential accommodation to promote more independent living with the benefit of 24 hour care.

THE CLOISTERS

A new development of 12, two bedroomed bungalows. Specifically designed for the disabled, available to buy or rent with full back up of a warden, 24 hour care domestic services, laundry services and catering if required, to meet the individual need.

Our principle aim is to provide a homely atmosphere conducive to promoting individual development and independence.

For further information please contact Miss G Clarke on (0427) 668175.

Blenheim House, Hemswell Cliff, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5TJ.

HELP WITH DAILY LIVING

FROM

Chester-care



For your free Chester-care catalogue, simply fill out the coupon and send to the address below.

NAME _____ BLOCK CAPITALS
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

Chester-care

Low Moor Estate, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. NG17 7JZ
Tel: (0623) 757955 Fax: (0623) 755585

A DIVISION OF HOMECRAFT SUPPLIES LIMITED

Eyes on the prize

Have you noticed whilst “wheelchair shopping” in the supermarket that the items you want most are unreachable? For us, it is usually a case of my husband David trudging round with the shopping list. But there is also great fun to be had there. At perfect wheelchair height, just waiting to be plucked, are competition entry forms. While David pushes the trolley, I zip up and down the aisles looking for tempting brain teasers.

It is two years now since I became hooked on entering competitions. If you have to spend hours lying down, or at least fairly inactive, you might as well use the time to put those little grey cells to work. Chilly evenings fly past when you’re brooding on an evasive answer, or thinking of an original and witty slogan.

It need not be an expensive hobby. A few dropped hints in the run up to a birthday or Christmas helps: someone can always manage a bumper pack of envelopes, a few postcards, or a sheet of stamps.

If you are feeling really flush, you can become a member of competitors’ clubs, which are advertised in the press from time to time. You get a monthly update on current competitions, tips, advice, and letters from delighted winners, giving hope to those in despair.

There is a jargon too: members call themselves “compers” and refer to LWEs (Long White Envelopes to you and me) which bring tidings of a win. Compers live in hope of receiving a LWE.

Having slogged away for months without result, my first win was memorable. After contracting Guillain Barre Syndrome, I was lying paralysed in intensive care. During visiting one evening, David came staggering in under the weight of a huge box, grinning from ear to ear. Yours truly had won a compact disc player.

David said he would keep the box unopened until I came home - a brilliant tactical manoeuvre to speed recovery.

Sometimes you have to send proof of purchase with the entry form (it was well worth buying a certain brand of plum pudding last year, to win a Mrs Beeton’s cookery book).

I’ve just won £500 worth of holiday vouchers from a *Daily Express* competition too.

And yes, the congratulations letters do arrive in Long White Envelopes!

Barbara Buist

Barbara reads Competitors’ Companion, £15 a year, tel: 071-638 4937.

Win a £10 prize

Can-you-create-a-caption?

Comedian Russ Abbot joins the celebrations after a British Epilepsy Association sponsored assault course in Leeds, which raised over £3,000.

What is the crowd shouting as he slides downstairs?

Answers, please, by 12 March, address page 3.



BRITISH EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ

Answers page 31

- Which American boxer was convicted of rape?
- Which American Democrat presidential candidate went on television to answer accusations of adultery?
- Who went on Desert Island

- Discs for its 50th Anniversary?
- According to a *Sunday Times* poll, how many Scots support Scottish independence from England?
- How did Russia change its nuclear weapons strategy?

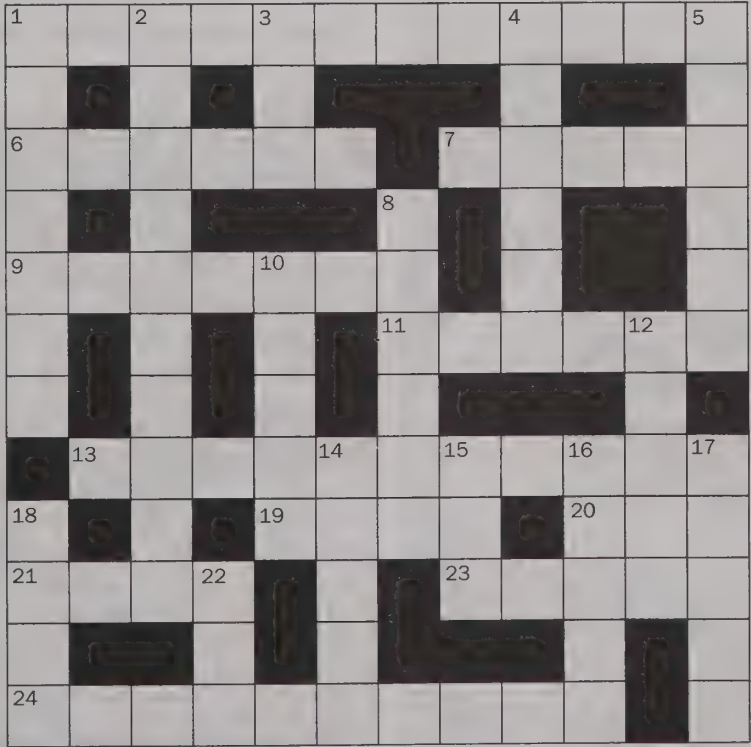
- What event had its twentieth anniversary in Northern Ireland?
- Why did a man walk free from court after pleading guilty to the manslaughter of his wife?

- Why could disabled people now have a shorter wait for their benefits to be assessed?
- Who resigned in Dublin?
- How old was the actress Vanessa Redgrave on 30 January?

DN's crossword

Answers page 31

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- A way in for wheelchairs (6,6)
- New (6)
- Guide, or the North Americans’ word for cattle (5)
- Her nail (anag)
- Place of work (6)
- Very shocked (11)
- Degree of sound or colour (4)
- Big battle (3)
- Man’s name (4)
- Complaint about water? (5)
- Fundamental level (10)

DOWN

- Regular way of doing things (7)
- Chum to rule (anag) (5,5)
- This woman ate an apple (3)
- Detach (3,3)
- Hit or refuse to work (6)
- Fight like a – (6)
- Inclined against (5)
- Inexpensive (5)
- Giver (5)
- Used for standing (3)
- Roll, alp or watch (5)
- Great fear (5)
- Medicine (4)
- Affirmative (3)

February winner

Thanks again for your entries. £10 goes to Mrs J Jenkins of Marlow for: “Yes vet, such a pity I have to cancel his injections”. Thanks also to Cindy Spetch for giving us all a laugh with: “Hey guys, DN is ter-ruff-ic value for money!”



SUNGIFT PLC ONLY THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH
TEL 0626 53520

DO YOU HAVE WALKING PROBLEMS?
WHY BE A PRISONER IN YOUR OWN HOME?
JUST IMAGINE HAVING THE FREEDOM TO COME AND GO AS “YOU” PLEASE.
HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE FEATURES ABOUT SUNGIFT THE ULTIMATE 4 WHEEL SCOOTER

- It has a “2 year total warranty.”
- It will fold into a small hatch back car.
- It climbs most kerbs at any angle “without the problem of tipping.”
- It will climb a 1 in 4 hill.
- It will carry a 28 stone person.
- It will go through a 25” opening.
- It has puncture proof tyres.
- It can travel at 8 m.p.h., with a 20 mile range.
- It has one simple hand control.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST YOU DON’T NEED A LICENCE TO DRIVE ANY OF SUNGIFTS 3 OR 4 WHEEL SCOOTER RANGE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE FULL RANGE OF PRODUCTS, JUST FILL IN THE COUPON BELOW.

NAME	“SEND TO” BODY THERAPY, HAWTHORN HOUSE, 3 HAWTHORN CLOSE, ALLER PARK, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ12 4TG.
ADDRESS	
.....	
TEL	



CHECKOUT

If you have never done any gardening before, why not have a go this spring? Checkout has been digging around to unearth some of the best tools and equipment available.

Your first step will probably be to sow your seeds. The Vince Injector Seedrill is a good idea for those with poor hand control or visual impairment. The seedrill can inject even small seeds into compost one at a time to adjustable depths. £8.95 (inc p&p). Tel: (0766) 522454.

The Sowmaster from Wolf Tools is attached to a long handle and rolled along the prepared seed drill sowing your seeds as it goes. Good for people who find it difficult to bend down to the ground. £18.95, plus £8.95 (inc VAT) for the interchangeable handle. Tel: (0989) 767600 for your local stockist.

If you want to start your plants off early, but are worried about the unpredictable British weather, a greenhouse could be the answer: The Rollhouse from Consumer Direct is a mini greenhouse that can be used from a sitting position (*see right*). Available with or without shelves. £87.95 (inc VAT and p&p) for the two-shelf model, tel: (0730) 62552.

Cloches are an alternative to greenhouses and might be the answer for people who find it difficult to do heavy digging work. They protect your plants and the soil at the same time so it need only be lightly broken

up and the cloche put on top. The Longrow Cloche also from Consumer Direct, is light and easy to move. £19.45 (inc VAT and p&p).

Tel: (0730) 62552 for your nearest stockist.

Water your garden the easy way and beat the hosepipe ban at the same time - sounds too



The Easy Kneeler Stool from JB Corrie can be turned upside down and used as a kneeler with handles. It protects your knees and provides support when getting up. £27.92 (recommended price, ex VAT) from garden centres.

good to be true? The Automatic Conservation and Distribution System from Sheerwater Products recycles and cleanses your household waste water and automatically pumps it through hosepipes and sprinklers on to your gar-

Helping your garden grow

den. Prices depend on individual requirements but the full system will probably set you back about £1,500. Tel: (0323) 416161.

You may feel you are fighting a losing battle trying to keep the grass short on a really big lawn. If you don't fancy a couple of sheep in your garden, a sit-on mower could be the

answer. The Lawnflite range of garden tractors can be fitted with a special seat. The seat has fold-up arm rests, forward and backward adjustment and swivels to left and right so that it is easier to get on and off. The seat costs £186.96 (ex VAT) and mowers range from £1,000 to £2,500. Tel: (0869) 253355 for your local stockist.

The Cloisters Hemswell Cliff Lincolnshire

Live an independent life within a Caring Community

12 two bedrooomed self contained luxury bungalows fully equipped for the handicapped and the infirm.

24 hour nursing care available. Enjoy full integration in this new thriving community.

Full details & brochure from

DDM
DICKINSON DAVY & MARKHAM

46, Oswald Road Scunthorpe DN15 7PQ
Tel: 0724 282278 Fax: 0724 865400

DERBY CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS

SPOTLIGHT ON PRODUCTS & SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, DERBY

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 1992
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

THE PREMIER REGIONAL EXHIBITION OF ITS KIND

To get more information about this major event write to:

Ann Webster, Chief Executive's Department,
Derby City Council, The Council House,
Derby DE1 2FS.

or Telephone:
Derby (0332) 255384
or Minicom:
Derby (0332) 256666.



DERBY CITY COUNCIL



Over 70 exhibitors offering a whole host of products and services to Disabled, Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired People in the areas of:

- ACCESS • TRANSPORT
- PERSONAL ASSISTANCE
- INFORMATION • TECHNICAL AIDS
- HOUSING • COUNSELLING
- EDUCATION • LEISURE
- EMPLOYMENT • TRAINING

DON'T MISS IT!

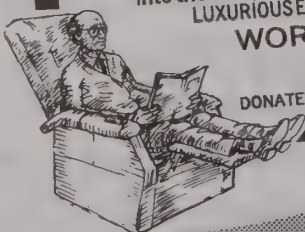
FREE PRIZE DRAW

Everyone attending will be entered into the free prize draw for LUXURIOUS EASY-LIFT ARMCHAIR

WORTH £750

KEEPABLE

DONATED BY



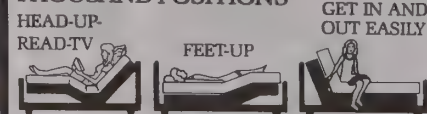
INDEPENDENCE

at the touch of a button

with the THERAPOSTURE Fully Automatic Adjustable Bed.

Free Home Demonstration

VARIABLE HEIGHT (Hi/Lo) & UNDER BED CLEARANCE
SELECT COMFORT FROM A THOUSAND POSITIONS



SUPPLIERS TO DHSS & HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Telephone: (0985) 213440

Send for a FREE BROCHURE

THERAPOSTURE LIMITED
FREEPOST, (NO STAMP REQUIRED)
WARMINSTER, WILTS. BA12 9YT

Please tick ☐ BEDS ☐ CHAIRS DN3/92

NAME

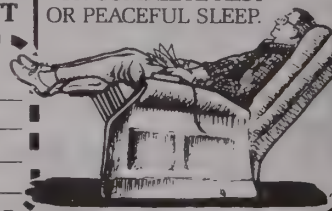
ADDRESS

Tel:

AND NOW THE AUTOMATIC SEAT LIFT CHAIR

STANDS YOU UP, SITS YOU DOWN, NICE & GENTLY.

ALSO THE AUTOMATIC SEAT LIFT SLUMBER RECLINER FOR COMPLETE REST OR PEACEFUL SLEEP.



WHAT'S ON

Sports Participation Day for Disabled People, 20 March at the Llanishen Centre in Cardiff. If you would like to attend, contact Rosemary Dodd, Co-ordinator, CP Sport (South Wales), The Spastics Society, Unit 3 Links Court, Links Business Park, St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 0SP, tel: (0222) 797706.

Disability in the Developing World, 29 March-3 April in Leicestershire. For more information contact M Greenhalgh, IDEA, William House, 101 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3QF, tel: (0373) 827635.

Services for Children with Disabilities: Issues in Child Protection, the third annual Keep Deaf Children Safe Conference. 30 March-1 April at Plater College, Oxford. £185. For further details and an application form contact the College Secretary, Plater College, Pullens Lane, Oxford.

Charityfair '92. 2-4 April at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London. Entrance £2. For more details and a full programme of events contact the Directory of Social Change, tel: 071-435 8171.

Oxford Disability Information Project, a two day conference, 6-7 April at St Catherine's College, Oxford. £65 (statutory), £30 (voluntary/individuals). For more details, contact Alison Clarke, tel: (0865) 226609.

Creating Health Care Environments, a conference organised by Arts for Health. 7 April at the Kings Fund Centre, London NW1. £90. For further information contact Ali Zarbafi, tel: 081-994 8045.

Spotlight on Products and Services for Disabled People, an exhibition on 8 April at the Assembly Rooms in Derby. More details from Ann Webster, Chief Executive's Department, Derby City Council, Council House, Derby DE1 2FS, tel: (0332) 255384.

INFO

Did you develop a service in 1991 which enabled disabled people to maintain independence in the community? The **Stannah Travel Fellowship** is open to people working in the field of occupational therapy. The prize is a week's trip to Canada and £1,000 for your department. Entry forms from: Stannah Travel Fellowships, 2 Kendall Place, London W1H 3AH. Closing date 4 May 1992.

£1,000 travel fellowships are on offer to UK health professionals or researchers visiting symposia to present work on pain or pain management. Entry forms from: Nurofen Pain Relief Project (TF), 4 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG. Closing date 31 March 1992.

The National Music and Disability Information Service has produced *Music To Relax To*, 12 piano arrangement for one

hand of songs from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. £3 (inc p&p). A large print book of the words costs 25p. Both from NMDIS, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ.

MOVES

Judi Clements starts as director of MIND this month. **Christine Craik** succeeds **Sheelagh Richards** as chairman of the British Association of Occupational Therapists. Ms Richards is now occupational therapy officer at the Department of Health. **Katia Herbst** has been appointed director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing. **Guy Howland** is to head the provider group at the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts. **Jeremy Hughes** is the new director of marketing and communications at the Muscular Dystrophy Group. **Richard Mills** is now adult services manager and care adviser at the National Autistic Society. **David Orr** is the new president of the College of Speech and Language Therapists.

SOS Number One Awards: to be televised over the May Bank Holiday Weekend

The SOS Number One Awards Ceremony was set up in 1987 to increase public awareness of the aspirations and abilities of young people with disabilities; and to highlight the important work of SOS.

The SOS Special Award - presented along with eight showbiz awards - was inaugurated to provide everyone with the vital opportunity to show their appreciation of a friend or relative who has shown considerable courage and determination in overcoming a disability, or someone who has helped the cause of disability in a unique way.

Do you know anyone who you would like to nominate for this award? If so, please send the name of your nominee and the reasons why you believe they deserve this special award to: SOS Number One Awards, PO Box 8181, London W12 7SE.

Please remember to include your own name and address and return your nomination by 31 March.

HOLIDAYS

North Wales, 5 Star Accommodation. Two, 3 bedroom holiday cottages are now available for all year rental. Full wheelchair access. All facilities to enable your holiday to be comfortable e.g. bed blocks, disabled toilet/shower etc. We offer pony rides, riding for the disabled and trap rides, we can build a holiday around your requirements. **Please write to Mr Barry Field, Beudygwyn Farm, Carreglefn, Cemaes Bay, Gwynedd, LL68 0RL; or phone (0407) 711433.**

The Access Holiday Guide '92 Edition Enlarged & detailing many additional "Wheelchair Friendly Holiday Venues". Excellent value at £3.00 inc p&p from **Access Holiday Guide, 7 Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8LY.**

Norfolk/Suffolk borders. Trio of beautiful barn conversions each sleeping 6. Adapted in line with Holiday Care Service spec. Use of luxury indoor heated swimming pool. **Tel: 0508 28786 for brochure.**

Historic Dinefwr, West Wales. Comfortable, well equipped cottages, specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th Century castle and overrun by deer. Sleeps 4-6, CH, CTV, laundry, fitness room, large orchard, and a very warm welcome. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin, 0558 823059, for brochure.

A beautiful Welsh stone cottage nestled in a quiet valley on the River Granel. Close to mountains, hills and Cardigan Bay. Fully equipped for the disabled visitor. To sleep 5 persons. Bed linen and towels supplied. Indoor heated swimming pool available soon in our grounds. **For colour brochure phone Richard and Linda Burgess on (0570) 470275.**

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraybury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

CHRISTCHURCH, BOURNEMOUTH. Holidays for persons requiring transport and accommodation. Specialising in holidays for the elderly and special needs. Inclusive of a door to door private transport service and daily tours in Dorset/Hampshire. Help always available. Write for details from Custom Leisure. Tel/fax (0202) 481003. 27 The Meridians, Stour Rd. Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 1RA.

Costa Blanca - Spain Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibuses, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

For a trouble-free holiday with all the family try: **ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL** a discreetly adapted manor house set in acres of beautiful grounds. 22 bedrooms - licensed bars - free use of wheelchairs - mini-bus. **Tel: (050841) 324 or write to: The Manager Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel Ashwellthorpe Norwich NR16 1EX**

Kings Sailing for the disabled. Sailing cruises for disabled and/or able bodied people. With only four guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Tom or Anne King 0305 821961. Or write to 55 Shepherds Croft, Portland, Dorset DT5 1DJ.

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT **Telephone: 0598 710241** Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available. Tourist Board 4 keys and commended. **Please contact: Valerie Boddington**

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

FOR SALE

VESSA MK II ELECTRIC CHAIR, £350. Marcon elec elevating db bed. Fitting, £200. Medic aid nebulizer atro and ventolin, £60. Portable oxygen cylinder, £25. Yam organ, £300. Car electric hoist for wheelchair, £150. All working and can deliver. Tel: (0323) 767930.

CHILTERN T44 COMFORT BED. Excellent condition. 220v, 3 functions, individually controlled, with mattress. £350. Also fine steel car ramps, ex Prairie, negotiable. Contact The Revd JW Masding, tel: 021-357 1259.

J REG, FULLY CONVERTED VEHICLE for disabled person, hoist at side entrance, facility to clamp wheelchair at side of driver, non slip floor, fully lined, very spacious, also rear doors, stereo radio, 1991 model, new car. For details, tel: (0483) 769824.

ELECTRIC VESSA WHEELCHAIR, £500. Burvill car top invalid hoist, £150. Elec. operated chair making standing easier, £175. Medic bath XP model, complete with taps, £150. Tel: 081-360 2557.

1985 METRO CITY CHAIRMAN, only 12,000 miles, excellent condition. £4,200 ono. Tel: (0480) 66286 (Cams) evenings.

METRO CHAIRMAN BE REG. 'O' pair cycle. Portable oxygen nebuliser. Spa chairs one adult, one child size. Offers for items for sale due to bereavement. Tel: (0582) 841221 (Herts/Beds border).

RASCAL SCOOTER as new 2 years old cost new £1,750. Accept £995 or near offer. Tel: Mrs Ruth Bachr, (0883) 348806 (Caterham, Surrey).

VESSA TREKKA, immaculate condition, less than 10 miles use. One of the first models. Cost £2,000. Accept £700 or near offer. Tel: (0403) 64923 (Horsesham).

A REG FORD TRANSIT. New engine, raised roof. Nearly new. Ratcliffe taillift. Suitable wheelchairs and/or seats. Privately owned, well maintained. Extras. £2,000. Tel: (0742) 324748.

BATRICAR, 3 YEARS OLD, very good condition. £600 ono. Tel: (0737) 557511.

FIAT FIORINO PRO CONVERSION. 21,800 miles. Windows, 4 seats,

SUNNY TENERIFE Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV Holiday Apartments Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS

RED CROSS HOUSE, INVERNESS. OFFERS RESPITE/HOLIDAY BREAKS FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. COMFORTABLE SINGLE BEDROOMS. FRIENDLY STAFF PROVIDING 24 HOUR CARE. ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT TO EXPLORE TOURIST TRAILS AND ENJOY MANY LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. FOR BROCHURE AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, THE PRINCIPAL, RED CROSS HOUSE, MACKINTOSH ROAD, RAIGMORE, INVERNESS IV2 3TX. TELEPHONE (0463) 234939.

Continued on page 30

wheelchair clamp, ramp, stereo, good condition, bereavement sale. £1,700, no offers. Tel: 081-942 1545 (day) or 081-949 2478 (evening)

4 BED CHALET BUNGALOW, fully adapted for wheelchair use downstairs with one bed. Ideal peaceful riverside location, close to all amenities. Weymouth, Dorset. £110,000. Tel: (0305) 814326.

SUNGIFT 300 SCOOTER, brand new never used, under manufacturers warranty. Cost £1,700, except £1,095. Tel: (0628) 22772.

COMPACT HYDRAULIC MOBILE PATIENT LIFTER with 2 sling mesh hammocks, can be dismantled for travel, £300 ono. A commode chair adjustable legs, arm rests can be removed. £30. Tel: (0273) 688094 (Brighton).

NISSAN VANETTE CONVERSION, E reg 40,000 miles. Fitted sunroof, side windows, telescopic ramps, 3 coach seats (one removeable) space and clamps for 2 wheelchairs. £3,500. Tel: (0777) 704173.

EVEREST & JENNINGS SAFARI petrol driven, spare tyre. £1,250. Tel: (0226) 289478 (Yorkshire).

DETACHED BUNGALOW, 4/5 bedrooms, suitable for disabled. 2 shower rooms, 1 bathroom, large patio garden, fully fitted, alarmed intercom. 2,500 sq ft, parking for six cars. In New Eltham. £165,000. Tel: 081-294 1735.

F REG NISSAN PRIARIE, 1,800 cc. Carchair fitted to front passenger seat. Original seating available. Excellent condition, AA inspected, 34,000 miles. £6,500 ono. Tel: (0933) 663762 (evenings).

CONVAID YOUNG ADULT CRUISER 4T, Little used, cost £470 will accept £200. Cositoes inc. Tel: 081-993 5304.

LARK ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, model 4,300. Excellent condition, little use. Battery charger, manual included. Quality product. £650. Tel: (0734) 792240.

EVERAIDS TURBO 1987 MODEL. Green, good running order. Can deliver NW England. £500 or offers. Tel: (0706) 824574.

1991 NISSAN PRAIRIE E2000 SLX. Charcoal grey, 75,000 miles only. Excellent condition, fitted with passenger electric wheelchair with hoist. £1,500. Tel: (0823) 443291.

SPACIOUS BUNGALOW, 2 bedrooms, living and dining rooms, bathroom hoist. Secluded garden. Easy reach of south coast. £62,000. Tel: (0293) 532106.

ORTHOKINETICS ELECTRIC LIFTING ARMCHAIR, very good condition. £300 ono. Tel: (0734) 474962.

DISABILITY BATHROOM EQUIPMENT, 2 yrs old, good condition. Apollo bath 65in with water pump, £900. Closomat body dryer, £150. Optimal wall rail, £15. Tel: 081-940 4751 (Richmond, Surrey).

Continued on page 28

COURSES

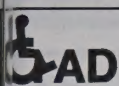
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING for DISABLED PEOPLE

18, 19 and 20 May 1992 near Liverpool M6 Jn 23

A FREE training course for disabled people seeking to gain more in terms of control of their lives in developing choices for their future.

The course is residential and free to disabled people as it is supported by the King Edwards Hospital Fund for London. Accommodation is available on the 18 and 19 May, however delegates wishing to attend daily will be more than welcome. We are keen to attract applications from disabled women, black people and the minority ethnic community. The application form is available in large print and audio cassette. The training venue will be fully accessible.

For further information contact Disability Matters Ltd., Berkeley House, West Tytherley, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 1NF or 0794 41144.



Greenwich Centre for Independent Living

TRAINING COORDINATOR. Starting Salary £16,128 (Inc L/W)
To set up a Personal Assistance User Training Programme, building on Greenwich CIL's extensive expertise in this area. This exciting new project requires a self-motivated disabled person with training experience and good organising skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. 21 Hours p/w £7,814 (Inc L/W)
Preferably disabled, to work on above project. Good secretarial skills required.

Initially funded for 18 months. Further details (also available on tape) from Greenwich Assoc. of Disabled People's C.I.L., Christchurch Forum, Trafalgar Road, SE10 9EQ. Tel: (081) 305-2221. Minicom (081) 858-9307. **Closing Date: 20th March 1992.**

HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN: ST ALBANS COURSES ADMINISTRATOR: Special Projects

Sal. £9,600 - £10,557 + £309 fringe allowance

Initially a 2-year post, dealing with special national and international projects and extra mural programmes. The principle current project concerns "The Arts in Self-Advocacy for Disabled People" within the EC Horizon Initiative. Applicants with personal experience of disability are encouraged.

Candidates must be proficient in word processing (WP 5.1) and database operation (currently Dataease). Experience of other software, e.g. Lotus 123, would be an advantage, as would shorthand. Experience of working within education/administering project work/working on an international basis is desirable.

Application forms from: The Principal's Secretary, Hertfordshire College of Art & Design, 7 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3RS. Tel: 0727-45544.

MERTON ASSOCIATION FOR INDEPENDENT ACCESS

CO-ORDINATOR

Salary £17,500

If you have personal experience and knowledge of access problems to buildings, services and jobs as a result of your physical disability then you will be interested in working for us.

Our local voluntary organisation, controlled by people with disabilities, needs a worker to co-ordinate a programme of access projects, prepare a borough access guide, manage the work and develop and promote local policy on disability rights.

Full details and application form available from: MAFIA, Vestry Hall, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3UD, tel: 081-685 1771.
Closing date: 20th March.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER required for NATIONAL CHARITY

Salary: NJC PO5/6
£24,825 - £27,543 (inc. L.W.)

We need someone to monitor, guide and control our finances and administrative activities and be our Company Secretary. We are a well established charity with 42 staff, working to provide information to disabled people from our London offices.

You will have an accountancy qualification or other qualification suited to Company Secretarial work and considerable relevant experience. Experience of the charitable field, including fundraising, and an understanding of disability would be advantageous.

Application forms and further details from: Gloria Hill, Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU. Tel: 071-289 6111. **Closing date for applications: 12 March.**

The DLF aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS CRAFTS PEOPLE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Oldham Leisure Services Department is initiating an exciting programme of public art commissions.

We are compiling a register of artists/craftspeople, photographers interested, or experienced in, producing public artworks and working with community groups.

We would particularly welcome applications from Asian artists, disabled artists and women artists.

This resource will also be available to the authority's other arts officers, architects, art gallery staff and planners.

All materials will be returned, or if retained, paid for.

Artists/craftspeople working in any media are invited to submit CVs, project proposals and slides/photographs of previous work to:

IAIN CARTWRIGHT
Public Art Officer
Local Interest Museum
Greaves Street
Oldham OLI IDN

OLDHAM
Leisure Services

FIND-A-FRIEND

For Find A Friend ads, please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

PARTIALLY SIGHTED LADY with cp, 39 years old. Walks with a stick. I would like to meet and write to an honest and caring male (40-45) for friendship in the first instance. My hobbies are dining out, cinema, computers and visits. Box No. 405.

MALE, 28, controlled epilepsy. Employed in textile mill. Interests: reading; swimming (ASA Gold); walking. Seeks friendship with young lady with similar interests. Lives in a rural area of mid Wales. Box No. 406.

MALE, 55, living alone, slightly disabled from damaged pelvis, would like to meet a pleasant lady aged 45-55 for friendship and companionship. Non-smoker preferred. (London SE) Box No. 407.

LEGLESS? If you are a male 18-30 and would like to correspond with, and eventually possibly meet, a similar guy, please write with details and photo. I'm well adjusted and independent but lonely. Box No. 408.

WIDOWER, 49, non-smoker, employed, quiet, caring, able-bodied with disabled friends. Seeks female, disabled/able-bodied. Initially for friendship, hopefully lasting relationship. Preferred area, Cheshire, North Shropshire, Clwyd etc. Please reply. Box No. 409.

There is a short waiting list for Find-A-Friend ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately, it will probably appear next month.

MALE, 45, with learning difficulties and speech problem., would like to meet similar person in Scotland for friendship/holiday companion. Likes animals, tv, music, walking, travelling, pubs. Box No. 410.

44-YEAR-OLD fun-loving divorcee would like someone cheerful and interesting to correspond with. I have mild MS. Box No. 411.

38-YEAR-OLD cheerful divorcee would like someone fun-loving and friendly to write to. Has MS. Box No. 412.

I AM AN ATTRACTIVE intelligent man, 27 years old and of Asian origin. I am recovering from mental illness and wish to meet an attractive, caring, able bodied woman (20-30) in the Birmingham area for a relationship. Box No. 413.

MALE, 32, single, disabled with arthritis, mobile, professional occupation, car owner, seeks able-bodied female (25-35) with good sense of humour/personality for evenings out, friendship, romance, possible marriage. West London area. All replies answered eventually. Box No. 414.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend advertisement indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address page 3.

DATES FOR THE DISABLED - A BETTER LIFE -

36 Park Grove, Edgware,
Middx. HA8 7SJ
Tel. 081-958 1095
081-958 9657



For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons. Access to relationships. Be assertive and join Handidate.
All enquiries to: HANDIDATE
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

Co-ordinator (full-time)

for Brighton and Hove Federation of the Disabled
a local alliance of Disability Organisations working together for change.
Experience of disability is an advantage.
Further details and application form from 3, Rutland Gardens, Hove.
Tel: 0273 - 208934. **Closing date Tuesday March 17th.**



eQUAL ARTS
THE NORTHERN REGION'S ARTS AND DISABILITY AGENCY

Development Worker in North Tyneside

£13,563 (pro rata for 20 hours per week)

EQUAL ARTS is seeking a Development Worker to manage an arts project with young disabled people in North Tyneside and to draft and implement an Arts and Disability Action Plan for the Borough.

The post-holder requires; personal experience of disability, knowledge of development work, organisational skills, and experience of the arts or related sectors. Further information and application form (no CV's) from:

EQUAL ARTS, Whinney House, Durham Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE9 5AR.
Tel: 091 487 8892 (voice and minicom). Information available in braille, large print and on cassette on request.

Closing date for applications: 23 March 1992.

EQUAL ARTS is committed to achieving greater equality of opportunity in employment and other areas of its work and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Hounslow Social Services - a new initiative

Access to services - through community development

Hounslow Social Services is particularly committed to improving access to its services for Asian and African-Caribbean people. As a result we have obtained Home Office funding (Section 11) to fund a project, and now seek to recruit to the following post:

Information/Outreach Worker

(outposted to Hounslow Borough Association of Disabled People)

£16,128 - £17,130 inclusive

Required to develop an information base relevant to Asian people with disabilities in Hounslow, this post is based at HBADP (funded by Hounslow) and day-to-day management will be by the co-ordinator. **Applications are sought only from people with disabilities.** We are looking for an experienced, though not necessarily qualified, information/outreach worker who is able to speak Hindi or Punjabi or one of the main Asian languages spoken in the borough (Urdu, Gujarati) and are aware of the problems facing Asian and African-Caribbean people, particularly in accessing services from local authorities.

For details telephone 081-862 6037 (24 hour answer service) quoting reference number SS/04/04. Director of Social Services, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4DN. Closing date: 20 March 1992.

Job Sharers welcome.
We operate a 'No Smoking' policy.



Hounslow
An Equal Opportunity Employer



Member of the Information Policy Group

The Policy Studies Institute, Britain's leading independent social and economic research organisation, wishes to appoint a new member of staff to work initially in the Information Policy Group.

The person appointed will join the team working on a range of research and development projects concerned with information and its use. Initially, the person appointed will spend about half of their time working on the National Disability Information Project and the rest of their time on other projects to do with information and social policy. There may be opportunities to work on projects with other research groups in the Institute.

The Institute is seeking to recruit someone with skills and experience in research or information work, as well as a knowledge and understanding of disability issues, preferably gained through personal experience of disability.

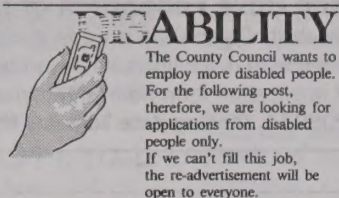
The job will be based in the Institute's offices in London NW1. The building is fully accessible to wheelchair users and has ample street parking immediately outside. The Institute has commissioned a survey of the building, to find out what adaptations are necessary to make it more convenient for people with disabilities.

The Institute wants to use the opportunity created by this vacancy to increase the representation of disabled people on the staff. Therefore disabled people are particularly encouraged to apply. The Institute will offer interviews to all applicants with disabilities who have the required skills and experience.

The person will be appointed to the staff of the Policy Studies Institute as a Research Officer or Research Fellow on a salary scale £13,000 - £22,000 (including London weighting) according to skills, qualifications and experience.

For further information, please write to or telephone Sue Whaley, Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR. 071 387 2171.

The closing date for applications is Monday, 13 April 1992.



Chief Executive's Department
Personnel Services

Part-Time Personnel Assistant (18.5 hours per week) £5,007 - £10,215 p.a.

Are you hard working, flexible and adaptable? Would you enjoy working as part of a team offering administrative support in the Employment and Equal Opportunities Section at County Hall? If the answer is yes and you can also demonstrate the following skills, then we would like to hear from you.

- 6 months' experience of working in an office environment
- the ability to take minutes at meetings
- the ability to deal with varied enquiries relating to employment and equal opportunities matters
- a proven commitment to equal opportunities
- the ability to input and extract information on a personal computer.

Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Officer, Chief Executives Department, at County Hall, tel Nottm (0602) 823378 (24 hour ansaphone). Closing date 16 March. Please quote ref: CE/CP/64/475.

The County Council welcomes applications from all, irrespective of gender, marital status, disability, race, age or sexual orientation.



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**
County Hall, West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP

HOLIDAYS

LOOE, CORNWALL. Fully equipped self-catering bungalow. 2 bedrooms, sleeps 6. Site near sea, easy access to beach, shop and indoor pool. Good accessibility wheelchairs. Tel: Peter Cash (0425) 72055.

NEW MILTON HAMPSHIRE. Fully equipped, completely wheelchair adapted, self catering chalet. 2 bedrooms, sleeps 6. Indoor/outdoor pools, superb site facilities 100 yards from Chalet. Near New Forest and Bournemouth. Tel: Peter Cash (0425) 72055).

WANTED

PORTABLE HOIST AND WHEELCHAIR. Tel: (09818) 283.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) would like to hear from disabled adults who were abused in childhood. All information you give to the researcher will be confidential and you should have already spoken to someone about the abuse. Contact Helen Westcott, Researcher, NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS, tel: 071-242 1626 ext 3225.

Salford Law Centre seeks a part-time Community Worker

(28 hrs per week) to work as part of a collective of seven. The worker will be involved in promoting equality of opportunity and fighting oppression and will use a range of approaches including community development work, training and campaigning. Job share available. Closing date 27 March 1992. Interview date 13 April 1992. For application forms, access details and further info, contact Salford Law Centre, 498 Liverpool St., Salford M6 5QZ. Telephone/Minicom 061 736 3116. Salford Law Centre is striving to become an equal opportunities employer.

HDC

Haringey Disabilities Consortium

ADVOCACY CO-ORDINATOR

Salary: £16,065 incl. Hours: 35 per week - 3 year funding.

HDC is an organisation of and for people with disabilities and their organisations. This new post requires a worker to initiate, develop and co-ordinate advocacy schemes. The Co-ordinator will develop forums for disabled people to gain self advocacy skills and have responsibility for recruiting, training and supervising volunteers in citizens advocacy.

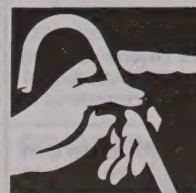
We are looking for a person with a disability, mental health or long term health problem to fill this post.

Information (including tape) from: Rena Allicock, 551B High Road, Tottenham, London, N17 6SB - Tel: 081 801 5757.

Our premises are fully accessible.

HDC aims to be an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Closing Date: Friday 20th March. Interviews: Tuesday 31st March.



ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Information Officer (Central)

Circa £16,000 p.a. plus benefits

action for blind people

Action for Blind People is a dynamic and well established charity which is committed to the delivery of an expanding range of high quality services for blind and visually impaired people.

We are looking for a library/information professional with at least 2 years experience, preferably in a related field, to join our team in our new Information and Advice Centre. A knowledge of computers is desirable.

This is part of an exciting project to improve information provision for blind and partially sighted people, their families and carers. As well as our Information Centre at Verney Road, we are in the process of developing a mobile information service and have already established a Local Information Service working with Hertfordshire Social Services Rehabilitation Team with Visually Impaired People.

If you would like an information pack, contact Dan Felton, Personnel Manager, Action for Blind People, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ - Tel: 071 732 8771. Please specify if you require the information in large print, braille or tape.

Closing date for completed application forms Friday 20th March. Interviews will be held Tuesday 31 March.

Applications are welcome from all regardless of age, sex, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or disability, except so far as a person with a visual impairment will be considered to have an additional qualification for the post. We regret our current premises have limited access for people with restricted mobility.

Deaf/Blind Care Manager and Sign Language Interpreter

We wish to recruit a Deaf/Blind Care Manager and Sign Language Interpreter to join our Sensory Impairment Team.

The Sensory Impairment Team in Wandsworth provides a Borough-wide social work and rehabilitation service to people with visual and hearing impairments. It is committed to raising the profile of the needs of its users, providing a high-quality professional service and promoting equal opportunities for people with sensory impairments.

(a) Deaf/Blind Care Manager
£16,023 - £21,465 inc. (SWG 2-4)

This new joint-funded post has been created in recognition of the scale of need of deaf/blind people and the serious disadvantage experienced by them in terms of access to services.

Your role will be to work in partnership with clients, carers and other professionals, to develop, co-ordinate and monitor care packages. In addition, you are expected to play a key role in developing this innovative new service and provide training for others on the needs of deaf/blind people.

You must be experienced in working with deaf/blind people and have a sound knowledge of their needs and the resources required to meet them. You must have appropriate communication skills and be enthusiastic and innovative in approach.

Please quote reference: SS/980.

(b) Sign Language Interpreter
£18,549 - £19,533 inc. (S02)

This is a new joint-funded post created to ensure equal opportunity of access for deaf people to the Council's and Health Authority's services. You will be interpreting in a variety of settings and must be proficient in sign language to Stage III CACDP.

You are expected to have a sound knowledge of issues relating to the Deaf Community and a clear understanding of the role of a Community Sign Language Interpreter. You must be flexible in approach and committed to playing a key role in the development of this new service. You should have GCSE or equivalent English Language.

Please quote reference: SS/981.

If you would like more information about these posts, please telephone Linda Doherty (Team Manager) on 081-871 7151.

For an application form please telephone 081-871 8487 between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm or write to the Sensory Impairment Team, Lyon House, 104 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 4LA, quoting the appropriate reference number.

Closing date: 20th March 1992.

Wandsworth

The Council as an Equal Opportunity Employer welcomes applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, disability or age. All applications are considered on the basis of their merits and abilities for the job.

'OPEN ACCESS' TO JOBS

As the largest City Council in the country and by far the biggest employer in Birmingham, we employ over 50,000 people, and regularly have a number of vacancies of all types and at all levels - manual, craft, office, technical and managerial.

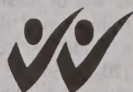
The present make-up of our workforce does not reflect the community it serves. In order to help us change this, we particularly welcome more job applications from women and men with disabilities, who are under-represented in many areas of work.

Interested?... then make sure you see our weekly 'Job Search' which lists all of our current vacancies. It can be seen at all Job Centres, Neighbourhood Offices, most Public Libraries and Recreation and Community Services establishments in Birmingham. You can also obtain 'Job Search' by phoning 021-235 3852 during office hours. Selected vacancies also appear in every Thursday's Birmingham Evening Mail.



Birmingham City Council

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary.



Work without prejudice

As a local Authority absolutely committed to meeting the needs of our community, we're keenly aware that, at present, our workforce doesn't reflect our community.

People with a disability or from the ethnic minorities are both under-represented, as are women at managerial level - a situation we're determined to do something about.

Not only are we acutely conscious about giving everyone equal chances in terms of recruitment, training and career progression, we're actively developing positive policies to even the balance. And we mean every word of our Equal Opportunities policy:

No employee or job applicant should receive less favourable treatment in recruitment, terms and conditions of service

or dismissal on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion or creed, trade union membership, criminal conviction not related to the nature of the job, pregnancy, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or on the grounds of age (up to 65).

We recruit regularly, so if you're interested in joining us, look out for our adverts in the press or phone or write to Nicola Capewell, Northampton Borough Council, Chief Executive and Town Clerk's Department (Personnel), 61 Derngate Northampton NN1 1UW. Tel. (0604) 29033, ext. 3272.



**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

AWARDS

ARTS COUNCIL TRUST FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Applications are now sought by the trustees for a small number of awards. Awards will be made to enable disabled people with a background of involvement in the arts and/or media to undertake a short course of training in administrative or technical aspects of the theatre with a professional theatre company or theatre organisation. Proposals should be specific and include rough costings. The awards are not open to students. These projects should fall outside the scope of schemes currently funded by the Arts Council and Regional Arts Boards. No award will exceed £1,000.

Application forms are available from:
The Financial Controller
Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street
London SW1P 3NQ. Tel: 071-333 0100

Completed applications should be sent to the
Financial Controller by 29 March 1992

Arts Council

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

please contact the
Advertisement Man-
ager, Richard Gresham,
Kingslea Press Lim-
ited, 12 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays Road,
London SE16 2XU.
Tel: 071-252 1362.
Fax: 071-237 8019.

Manor Gardens Centre, London N7

Senior Youth Worker

to co-ordinate and further develop our youth project for young people with disabilities and their friends. **Minimum** 1 year's work experience with young people with disability. **Minimum** 2 year's substantial youth work experience. Manor Gardens Centre has a strong commitment to continue the development of its equal opportunities policy. We wish to encourage applications from people who are often discriminated against. We positively welcome applications from workers with a disability who are under-represented in the workforce.

Salary £15,567-£18,072.
Closing date 20th March 10am.
Please telephone 071-272 4231.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Ramped access
6. Unused 7. Steer 9.
Inhaler 11. Office 13. Scan-
dalised 19. Tone 20. War
21. Rory 23. Gripe 24.
Grassroots

DOWN: 1. Routine 2.
Mouth ulcer 3. Eve 4. Cut
off 5. Strike 8. Trojan 10.
Leant 12. Cheap 14. Donor
15. Leg 16. Swiss 17.
Dread 18. Drug 22. Yes

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mike Tyson 2. Bill Clin-
ton 3. John Major 4. 40% of
the Scottish population 5. It
stopped targeting weapons at
America 6. Bloody Sunday 7.
The judge said he had suf-
fered enough because his wife
nagged him 8. The govern-
ment has introduced a "Ben-
efits Charter" for claimants
9. Irish Prime Minister,
Charles Haughey 10. 55

Deadlines for April issue: booking by 13 March,
camera ready artwork/copy by 17 March.

WALTHAM FOREST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROJECT LEADER (DISABILITY)

£19,380 - £21,498 p.a. inc. (Unqualified £11,718 -£13,104)

If you are a Youth Worker experienced in:

- developing policy and Youth Work programmes for young people with disabilities
- implementing equal opportunities
- empowering young people with disabilities
- work with Black or Asian people with disabilities

Contact us now!

Applications are restricted to candidates who have a disability.

This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants should submit a fresh application.

Closing date: 30/03/92

REF:G138/DN

For an application form and further details apply to:

The Recruitment Team, Personnel Unit, Education Department, Municipal
Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ. Tel: 081-527 5544 ext. 5351.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

This post is available for job share.

Job details are available on tape on request.

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and
welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic
minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men
to help build a representative workforce.



UNDERSTANDING
DISABILITY

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

There is a job opportunity available in
this small expanding Trust which
produces and promotes a multi-media
disability awareness programme to
British and overseas schools and
educational establishments.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

£15K - £16K p.a.

The person in this vital role will promote and expand the
use of the UDET project in schools and educational
establishments, and contribute towards the planning,
production and marketing of other UDET materials
designed for a wider range of users.

The ideal candidate will have experience of disability,
management expertise, keyboard skills and a background
in teaching, adult training, public relations or publishing.
Strong public-speaking and inter-personal skills essential.
Travel throughout the UK will be required on a regular
basis.

The post is available for 2 years in the first instance.

**Applications are particularly welcomed from people with
disability. Parking and wheelchair access.**

Please write for an application form to: Mary-Anne Grant,
Executive Director, UDET, Weydon School, Weydon Lane,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 8UG. Tel: (0252) 733167.

Application forms to be returned by 3rd April '92.
Interviews are likely to be held during the week beginning
27th April.

Social Services Department

ABILITY NOT DISABILITY

Southwark Council is committed to good policies and practice in the employment of people with disabilities.

The Social Services Department is keen to ensure that the workforce is representative of the whole of the community we offer services to. People with disabilities are currently under-represented and we aim to address this by pursuing a range of positive action initiatives.

The Council has a policy of automatic shortlisting for people who have registered as disabled. All people with disabilities, including those who have chosen not to register, are welcome to apply and will be considered fairly on merit and ability to do the job.

In Social Services, we aim to offer effective induction, training and career development to all staff, to enhance the quality of service provided.

If you are interested in joining the Department, please return the coupon below to Southwark Social Services, 49 Grange Walk, London SE1 3DY or telephone 071-525 3875.
Arrangements will then be made for you to receive weekly vacancy details.



I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE SOCIAL SERVICES VACANCY LIST



Southwark
Council

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Disability Now

*The campaigning
newspaper for people
with all kinds
of disabilities*

Please SUPPORT DN by SUBSCRIBING NOW

DISABILITY NOW SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent,
FREEPOST 17 London W1E 3HU with your remittance
made payable to
DISABILITY NOW. No stamp is needed.

NAME _____
BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

Please tick ☒

I wish to become a
new subscriber to Disability Now ☐

Individual at home address One year (12 issues) £10 ☐
Two year (24 issues) £19 ☐

Organisations / One year (12 issues) £15 ☐
authorities etc. Two year (24 issues) £29 ☐

Overseas One year Sterling £20 ☐

* Multiple _____ copies £ _____ 1 year (12 issues) ☐

I/We enclose Cheque/PO ☐

A voluntary donation towards costs £ _____ ☐

I authorise you to charge my VISA ☐ ACCESS ☐

Account No. _____

Expiry Date ____ / ____ Signature _____

Telephone ACCESS/VISA account. no. to (071) 383 4575

Disability Now is a non-profit making publication. It is sent
free to disabled people on low income if they let us know.

* Multiple copies
2 copies £24, 3 copies £36, 4 copies £48, 5 copies £60, 6 copies £72,
10-50 copies £100, 51-100 copies £125. One year (12 issues) only.

This year's most comfortable offer...

spa

CONTROLLER CHAIR

The only *possible*, *impossible* chair for all *possible* sizes

From sitting to lying and sleeping to sighing the new Spa Mark II Controller Chair offers a new dimension in comfort and support. A dimension that was previously impossible to obtain from one chair without the use of additional wedges and support apparatus.

The design of the Spa Mark II is the result of over three years development and innovation, born out of our successful Mark I Controller Chair.

The Mark II offers eight, infinitely variable movements which, in turn, allows the user to select thousands of different supporting positions. The right position, for the right person, at the right time, regardless of whether the person is severely disabled, a stroke victim or of an age where comfort and support is a necessity, not a priority, then Controller Chair is your answer.

A special chair for special people.



"Le Chair" - not wheel chair

Arguably the most compact, lightweight and robust chair of its type. Liked by both occupants and their attendants.

Folds in seconds for ease of stowage, with instant release of the wheels, allowing transportation within the most compact of cars.

A quality product, providing comfort, safety and reliability - **who provides an unequivocal life time guarantee on their frame?** - Le-Chair.



**This amazing offer lasts from 1st February-31st May
Hurry call now - Telephone: 0234 269220**

£100 off with this coupon

Pay Mr/Mrs/Miss

Amount

One hundred pounds only

£100.00

Address

Tel No.



Fill in this coupon and send to:

Shanning Mobility Systems Ltd, 32-34 College Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire MK42 8LU, England
Telephone: 0234 269220 Facsimile: 0234 269223

MOBILITY • SYSTEMS

2514T7

Valid from 1st February - 31st May 1992